

U.N. unaware of Namibia incursions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is unaware of guerrilla incursions from Namibia, an alleged South African, in violation of a UN-authorized peace plan for the territory's independence, a spokesman said Wednesday. South Africa Foreign Minister P.W. Botha telephoned Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar early Wednesday to say Pretoria had received messages from United Nations posts in Namibia on guerrilla activity along the border from Angola. "From the information we have received, we are not aware of any such activities in the Namibian border or the activities of the guerrillas which are mentioned by the foreign minister," the secretary-general's spokesman, Francois Giffoni, told reporters. "I believe he indicated... that these messages had been intercepted since Oct. 24 and this is the first we've heard of it," Giffoni said. The spokesman said the charges were being investigated by the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), which has more than 7,000 troops, police and civilians in Namibia to supervise the territory's independence from South Africa.

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King receives petition against 'apostasy' case

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A group of Jordanian lawyers, journalists, doctors, university professors and scholars Wednesday appealed to His Majesty King Hussein against apostasy charges filed by Islamic fundamentalists against a woman candidate running in the Nov. 8 elections.

In a petition they presented to the King at a meeting at the royal palace, the group condemned the case filed against Toujan Faisal, a candidate for the Circassian seat in the fifth electoral district of Amman, and said the charges leveled against the candidate were "bound to have adverse effects and consequences on the Jordanian society and the Kingdom's democratic process," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

"The charges have very serious dimensions and constitute a form of intellectual and psychological intimidation, which will reflect badly on Jordan's image and on the democratic atmosphere for the elections whose success the King and the government are keen to ensure," Petra quoted the petition as saying.

The charges against Faisal and "the manner in which they were filed constitute a grave offense not only to Islam and the reli-

gion's tolerant spirit but also the principles of dialogue as advocated by Islam," the petition said. It questioned the competence and jurisdiction of the Islamic court where the case was filed and warned that its "acceptance of the case will be a serious precedent in Jordan and contradict the provisions of the constitution and legislation."

"The case is damaging to Jordan, which has enjoyed freedom and democracy, and we are seeking Your Majesty's judgement since we are truly committed to the country's national principles and goals," Petra quoted the group as saying.

In comments carried by the news agency after the audience, a spokesman for the group said the group's members had sought a meeting with the King since they were "convinced that King Hussein, as the monarch of Jordan and descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, was keen on upholding the true and bright image of Islam and protecting the faith against all offences direct against it."

Replying to the group, the King emphasized that "an atmosphere of democracy should prevail in the country and in the election campaigns."

"Such an atmosphere is bound to create some negative aspects, which should be dealt with

deepened and strengthened positive aspects," the King was quoted as saying by Petra.

"The Jordanian society," the King said, "should exert efforts to achieve the common goals and should maintain keenness on steadfastness in the face of all challenges and dangers."

"We all need a great measure of awareness with which to counter all that is being hatched against us because of our political stands and pan-Arab policies," the King said. "What should be emphasized in the current stage as well as later on is the need to safeguard the fabric of our nation and deepen its democratic experiment, protect our freedoms and further ensure security for the citizens," he added.

It was the first formal reaction by the King on the case against Faisal which was filed last week and heard by an Islamic court Saturday. The court has set Nov. 9 as the date to rule on its own competence for handling the case, the first of its kind in Jordan.

The charges, filed by two plaintiffs in the name of "public right," accuse Faisal of apostasy and demand that the court declare her incompetent, dissolve her marriage and grant immunity for anyone shedding her blood. The charges, according to documents available to the Jordan

Times, are based on an article that Faisal, a woman rights activist, wrote in the local Arabic daily Al Rai on Sept. 21. The article, according to the plaintiffs, contradicted Islamic principles and faith.

Faisal, one of the 12 woman candidates in the Nov. 8 elections — the first polls in Jordan in which women are seeking seats in the Lower House — has denied that she was guilty of any of the charges. "I am a Muslim and I say that God is one and Muhammad is His Prophet," she told the Jordan Times this week. "They (the plaintiffs) have no ground for their case in Islam since only God can judge whether a person is sincere or not," she said in an interview.

The group which met with the King Wednesday included lawyer and former minister Omar Nabulsi, lawyer Asme Khader, professor Ahmad Madi, professor Arwa Al Amiri, professor and columnist Homi Ayyesh, doctor Fathieh Saoudi, writer Zalekha Abu Risha, columnist Tareq Masarweh, professor and columnist Iyad Qattan, social worker Manal Hamzeh and journalists Lina Nabil and Wafa Amer.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran and the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odch.

King steps in to aid injured TCC worker

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday issued directives that proper medical treatment be given to an employee of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) who had suffered serious injuries sustained in the course of his work as a lineman in Azraq.

The King learnt of the case while listening Wednesday morn-

ing to Radio Jordan call-in programme "What It Came to Light" that Jawdat Hamad Fawwaz Al Qadi had not recovered from the injuries he suffered in a fall from a telephone pole while working in Azraq in March 1986.

Qadi was said to have suffered damage to the pelvis and the left foot and, according to a TCC official, underwent treatment for 57 days. Following the treatment, he was sent back to work with a medical report stating that

he was fit to discharge his duties, the TCC official told the Jordan Times. However, he said, Qadi had tried to obtain compensation from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) for having sustained occupational injuries and stayed away from work for 57 days. The SSC refused to pay since the worker had received full pay from the TCC plus free treatment at the Azraq government hospital.

Qadi, however, complained to the call-in radio programme Wednesday that he was still feeling pain in the lower parts of his left foot. According to the TCC official, it was discovered that his ankle was still affected and required immediate treatment.

He said that through the TCC, King Hussein had asked that the worker call on Dr. Daoud Hanania, director general of the National Medical Institution, to admit him into the King Hussein Medical Centre for the required treatment.

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86% of electorate collect cards

AMMAN (I.T.) — A total of 574,693 voters collected their voter cards from the authorities in various governorates before the deadline for delivery of cards expired Tuesday, the Interior Ministry announced Wednesday.

A ministry statement noted that the number of collected cards represented 86 per cent of the total number of registered voters — 1,019,852 — and said that the uncollected cards were kept in the safe custody of the authorities.

Following is a split-up account of the cards collected in various districts:

Amman

First District — 45,290 (total 65,342); Second District — 57,000 (73,435); Third District — 46,199 (64,824); Fourth District — 33,512 (53,788); Fifth District — 47,373 (68,289); Sixth District — 30,692 (35,134); Belkha of central Jordan district 17,816 (21,153).

Irbid

Irbid city and suburbs — 109,196 (124,983); Albus District — 34,536 (36,297); Jerash District — 29,359 (31,350); Ramtha and Bani Khasan District — 40,815 (41,369).

Al Karak and North Ghor — 45,041 (45,955).

Belkha of North Jordan — 22,893 (24,060).

Belkha Governorate 83,374 — (81,300).

Karak Governorate 64,663 — (67,563).

Mada Governorate 25,663 — (27,980).

Belkha of South Jordan 16,320 — (18,476).

Zarqa Governorate 88,628 — (116,374).

Motraq Governorate 20,041 — (21,641).

Tafila Governorate 20,579 — (21,986).

Settler soldiers to be deployed in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has approved an army plan to deploy companies of Jewish settler reservists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on an experimental basis, Israeli media reported Wednesday.

The new policy, reportedly initiated by West Bank commander Yitzhak Mordechai, drew praise from settlers and criticism from left-wing legislators who said it would add to the violence of the 22-month Palestinian uprising.

The policy breaks with a practice of several years that excluded the settlers from military duty in the occupied territories. Settlers already have been accused of attacking and killing Palestinians during the revolt.

The military command declined comment on the reports carried by state-owned radio and the Israeli dailies Davar, Al Hanihina and Maariv.

Rabin's spokesman, Eitan Haber, confirmed settlers would be serving in the West Bank, but said he could give no immediate details.

In the occupied territories Wednesday, soldiers clashed with

stone-throwing youths in at least three high schools in protests staged to mark the last day of classes before final exams, reports said.

One masked protester, Shebtha Hussein Abu Al Atta, 21, was shot in the left leg in the occupied Gaza Strip and rushed to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, hospital officials said.

Masked assailants also beat and critically injured a 60-year-old gas station attendant in Gaza, apparently because he was accused of helping the Israeli occupation authorities, reports said.

Police said they arrested a 24-year-old Arab teacher in Galilee for allegedly daubing the red, black, green and white colours of the Palestinian flag on a blackboard and telling his third-grade class "This is the flag of our state."

The first company of settler reservists will be assigned next week to the Hebron district in the occupied West Bank, the radio reported.

Uri Ariel, head of the West Bank "settlement council," said settlers would make good soldiers in the territories.

"There is no doubt that our knowledge of the field, of Arab and Jewish settlements, and motivation... will certainly make such a company top notch," he said.

Five left-wing parties filed urgent motions in parliament demanding the practice be blocked or at least be debated before it is implemented.

"Years of experience show this is a sure-fire recipe for bloodshed," Haim Oron of the socialist Mapam told the radio. The liberal Shinui party accused Rabin of "playing with dynamite."

Since the start of the uprising, 24 of 697 Palestinians killed during unrest have been shot by Jewish settlers, according to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem.

The latest suspected shooting by a settler was Oct. 12 when an unidentified Jewish man driving a yellow Volvo fatally shot a 17-year-old shepherd, Abdallah Taha, when his car was stoned, the Haaretz daily reported.

Taha's death was listed as unexplained when it occurred, but the army confirmed Wednesday that police were investigating the case.

Krenz says E. German demonstrations a good sign

MOSCOW (Agencies) — East German leader Egon Krenz met Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday and said afterwards he thought the demonstrations racking his country were a good sign that fundamental change was under way.

Krenz, speaking at a news conference after three hours of talks with Gorbachev, also denied he was a hardliner and said he intended to apply the Kremlin's perestroika reforms in his own country.

"Many people are out on the streets to show that they want better socialism and the renovation of society. And so I believe

that this is a good sign, an indication that we are at a turning point in the life of the GDR (East Germany)," he said.

Krenz left for Moscow Tuesday as tens of thousands of East Germans demonstrated to demand free elections, legalised opposition groups and an end to press censorship. The previous day up to half a million people were on the streets.

Krenz pledged to renovate socialism to help satisfy their demands and said the East German leadership would listen to everything they had to say.

"We will take up every idea that is expressed," he said.

At the same time he rejected the notion that his close association with former East German Communist Party chief Erich Honecker, whom he replaced last month, made him a hardliner.

"To be a hardliner or not to be a hardliner, that is not the question at all," he said. "I do not consider myself to be a serving member of my party."

East Germany's main opposition group, New Forum, moved close to winning official recognition Wednesday as the communist authorities said they might lift a ban imposed on the Movement in September.

The Interior Ministry said it was reconsidering the group's application for legal registration in response to a request from an official of the Christian Democratic Party, one of four small political parties long obedient to the communists.

Western diplomats said the announcement cleared the way for legalisation of New Forum, which claims more than 30,000 active members, but that the authorities were likely to insist the group accept East Germany's Communist political order.

The upheavals have turned into East Germany's worst crisis since an abortive workers' uprising in

1953. They forced the leader of the official trade union movement, politburo member Harry Tisch, to announce Tuesday that he would resign.

The authorities, who denounced New Forum in September as a subversive organisation, gave it de facto recognition last week by arranging talks between senior party officials and several prominent activists in the group.

Diplomats said New Forum, a disparate collection of partisans, intellectuals, environmentalists and some workers, now had to meet the challenge of presenting specific proposals for improving conditions in East Germany.

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Hussein calls for Nov. 4 elections

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's caretaker parliamentary speaker called Wednesday for deputies to meet Saturday to elect a president, house speaker and endorse an Arab peace pact aimed at ending Lebanon's 14 years of civil war. In a statement, Hussein Hussein said the electoral session would be held on Nov. 4 at the makeshift temporary Mansour Palace. The statement said three electoral sessions would be held. The first would elect a replacement for Hussein whose term as speaker of the house ended last year. A second session would endorse an Arab-mediated peace accord reached between Christians and Muslim deputies last week in the Saudi resort of Taif to end Lebanon's ongoing war. A final session would choose a president for Lebanon which has been governed by two rival governments — one Christian and one Muslim-led — since former President Amin Gemayel left office in September last year without a successor being elected. Christian cabinet leader General Michel Aoun has threatened to dissolve parliament to prevent it meeting and endorsing the Arab peace pact (see story below).



King meets U.S. army commander

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday the chief of the U.S. Central Military Command, General Schwarzkopf. The meeting was attended by Jordanian Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Schwarzkopf, who arrived earlier in the day, was also received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who discussed with him bilateral

relations. The meeting was attended by Abu Taleb and the American ambassador. Abu Taleb held a meeting earlier in the morning with Schwarzkopf at the Armed Forces General Headquarters. The two reviewed the situation in the region and matters of interest to both sides. The meeting was attended by the Chief of Staff's assistants, the American ambassador and military attache in Amman.

Clerics pursue mediation amid Aoun's new threat

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Christian church stepped in Wednesday to try to end a row between parliament and Christian army chief General Michel Aoun which threatens an Arab peace plan.

Christian political sources said senior clerics of different Christian sects urged Aoun at a meeting not to dissolve parliament, called by Arab mediators to meet in Beirut by next Tuesday to elect a new president and pass political reforms.

Aoun has threatened to dissolve parliament to prevent the implementation of the peace agreement, which he rejected for failing to ensure a swift Syrian troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

The general demands that Christian deputies first seek his approval and that of the Lebanese people for the peace plan which they and Muslim parliamentarians agreed in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

"I think the session will not be held," Aoun told Al Diyar newspaper in an interview published Wednesday. "There will be no session before (Christian) de-

puties return to east Beirut."

All but a handful of the 31 Christian deputies who attended the Taif talks have stayed outside Lebanon because of threats by Aoun's supporters to kill them for agreeing to the Taif pact.

Deputies could meet outside Beirut if Aoun blocked the session, due to be held at a temporary parliament house on green line battle zone splitting Beirut into a Christian east and a Muslim west.

Asked what he would do if they met at Diman northeast of Beirut for elections, Aoun told Al Diyar: "I would immediately use my powers to dissolve parliament before it goes ahead."

Maoy deputies, however, would almost certainly ignore such an order from Aoun, who was appointed to head a Christian military cabinet ended President Amin Gemayel before his term last year.

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi discussed plans for the parliament session with Hussein Hussein, the Muslim caretaker speaker of parliament, who returned to Lebanon Wednesday.

Five patriarchs and representatives of Lebanon's other Christian churches met Wednesday in the mountain village of Bkirkil, northeast of Beirut, and decided to try and mediate.

They agreed no election should be held outside Lebanon but Aoun should be asked to take on decision which could not be reversed, such as dissolving parliament, political sources said.

Aoun carried his war against Syrian troops to the United Nations, demanding their removal from his country and claiming they have assassinated religious and political leaders.

In a letter delivered to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Aoun demanded the removal of all foreign occupation troops from Lebanon, including the Israelis, but particularly castigated the Syrian army.

But, the five permanent members of the Security Council issued a statement Tuesday backing the Arab plan to end the Lebanese civil war calling on all Lebanese to work for its implementation.

Lawson crisis cuts Thatcher down to size

LONDON (R) — Britain's government crisis has inflicted lasting damage on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's leadership and strengthened key pro-European ministers in her cabinet, political sources said Wednesday.

Conservative Party critics of Thatcher's abrasive treatment of colleagues expect a softer, more cooperative style to emerge from the wreckage of Nigel Lawson's acrimonious resignation as chancellor of the exchequer.

Lawson dealt a decisive blow when he told parliament Tuesday that "an ill-concealed iceberg" of disagreements with Thatcher had forced him to quit.

His attack followed an appeal to Thatcher by senior ministers and rank-and-file conservative members of parliament to adopt a less confrontational manner of cabinet management.

Thatcher aides said she had no intention of complying but political sources said the reality was likely to be different.

After two full-scale cabinet rows and ministerial reshuffles since August, they said Thatcher was now flanked by colleagues who could not be sacked without tearing the government apart and who would be more ready to defy her.

Newspaper columnist Peter

U.N. seeks to cement Gulf peace

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson, on a peace shuttle to end 14 months of cold war between Iraq and Iran and get talks going again, met Iraqi leaders Wednesday to try to break the no-war no-peace impasse.

President Saddam Hussein was quoted by Baghdad Radio as telling Eliasson that Iraq wanted peace but there was nothing in Iran's record that showed it wanted the same.

"Iran's record was different... there is nothing in its record that pointed to its desire to achieve peace," Baghdad Radio quoted Hussein as saying.

"It is demanded that Iran proves its will to achieve a durable peace, which Iraq and the United Nations have always called for," Hussein said.

Eliasson said when he arrived in Baghdad Tuesday that the state of no-war, no-peace between Iran and Iraq had to end.

"I am confident that Iraq will respond and work to fully implement (Security Council) Resolution 598," he said. "We are requested to move towards the achievement of an all out peace, to encourage peace and cooperation in the region."

Several rounds of talks between Iran and Iraq quickly stalled after a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire halted the eight-year-long Gulf war in August, 1988.

Eliasson is expected to spend three weeks shuttling between Baghdad and Tehran, with no set schedule.

The issues that continue to hamper progress include exchange of the 100,000 prisoners of war (PoWs) each side holds, withdrawal of troops to borders, both sides will agree on and control over the Shatt Al Arab waterway that forms the southern border between the two countries.

Iraq's state-run media welcomed Eliasson's effort and said Iraq would give him all assistance he needs to lead his mission to success.

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Middle East News

Bashir vows to defeat rebels before end of year

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader, stung by his first major battlefield defeat since he seized power in June, has vowed to crush southern rebels by the end of the year.

Exhorting his troops at the front line Tuesday in Blue Nile province where the border town of Al Karmuk fell at the weekend, General Omar Hassan Al Bashir said: "This year will witness the end of the rebels."

Bashir postponed a visit to North Yemen to inspect his troops, who withdrew from the town in the face of swelling by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) based inside Ethiopia. "All preparations to return to Al Karmuk and other positions held by the rebels have been completed," the armed forces

daily quoted him as saying. The SPLA vowed to prevent Bashir from retaking the town and threatened to advance to a government-held town further north.

Sudan's state radio and television, mirroring the military's mood, have been broadcasting martial music. Bashir has declared a series of unilateral ceasefires and urged the SPLA to talk peace.

Diplomats have said large amounts of arms and ammunition have been flooding into Khartoum recently.

The SPLA, led by former army Colonel John Garang, has fought since 1983 to end what it sees as unjust domination of the largely Christian and animist south by the Arab Muslim north.

The rebels made major gains, capturing at least 12 garrison towns over the past year, until May when a series of unilateral ceasefires led to a de facto truce.

Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Isma'il Ibrahim Omar told the armed forces daily that Ethiopian troops had given the SPLA massive help in its attack on Al Karmuk.

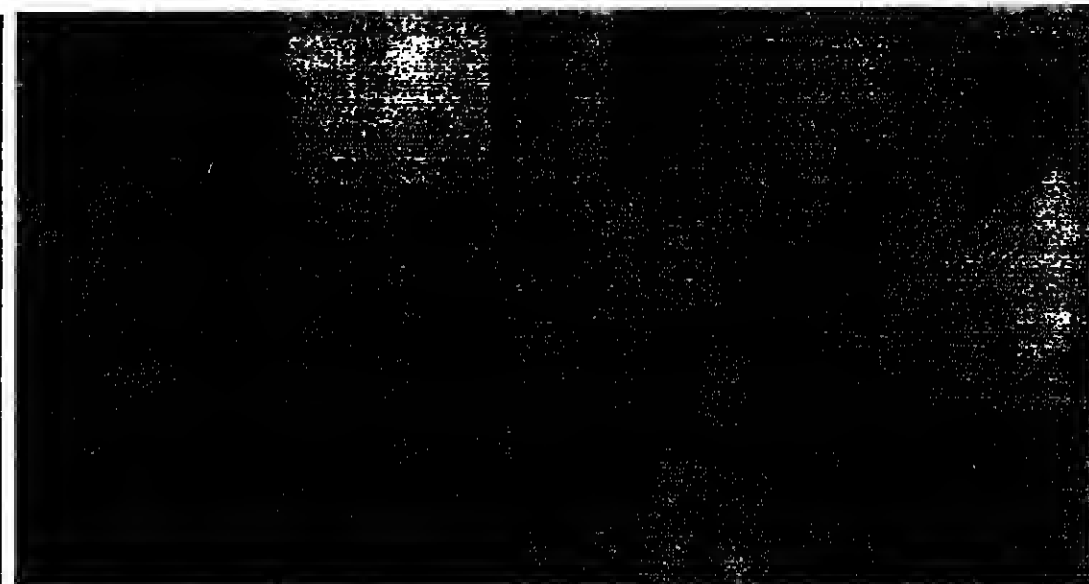
He said Sudanese soldiers who took part in the fighting had told him that a number of Ethiopian soldiers and foreigners were among those killed. He gave no details.

Ethiopia has denied its troops took part. State Radio Omdurman said the Foreign Ministry summoned a top Ethiopian diplomat in Khartoum and handed him an official protest.

Bashir had said on taking power that a peaceful settlement in the south was his government's top priority.

He had invited Garang to take part in a peace conference which ended last month with vague proposals for a federal system and a better share of development for the south.

Garang turned down the invitation and maintained that any settlement must include the repeal of Islamic Sharia laws introduced six years ago but largely dormant since 1985.



As Beit Sahour residents celebrated the end of an Israeli blockade of the village, a Reuters photographer reported seeing a soldier beat a Palestinian

and kick in the stomach. When a crowd gathered, the soldier and his two comrades let the Palestinian go on his way.

Beit Sahour celebrates end of Israeli blockade

BEIT SAHOUR, occupied West Bank (AP) — The army took down the barricades around this Palestinian town Tuesday, ending 42 days of seizing cars, furniture and other goods to crush a tax boycott. Inhabitants took to the streets to shout victory.

But as hundreds of the townspeople waved "V" signs and sang, military authorities claimed they had succeeded in breaking the revolt, seizing more than

three million shekels (\$1.5 million) to make up for unpaid taxes. "We are always collecting taxes. We have always collected taxes. We are the authorities," Shaikha Erez, head of the West Bank "military government," said on Israel radio.

Hanan Banura, a 25-year-old mother of two whose husband is in jail for refusing to pay taxes, said the town's defiance strengthened the 22-month Palestinian uprising.

The bulldozers that pushed away the earthen mound blocking off the Arab town of 10,000 people ended Beit Sahour's role as a symbol of the revolt against occupation.

Beit Sahour, known mostly for the fields where shepherds first learned of Christ's birth, kept up the boycott of Israeli taxes ordered by the leaders of the

uprising long after most other Palestinians gave in to Israeli pressures.

Much to Israel's consternation, the tax revolt has gotten as much publicity as the uprising's persistent violence. Journalists who sneaked into Beit Sahour described refrigerators, rugs, cars, televisions and all manner of goods being hauled away.

On one side, townspeople complained against "taxation without representation." On the other, Israel claimed it was seizing goods only to collect taxes to support local schools, roads and other services.

Meron Benvenisti, a former Israeli deputy mayor of Jerusalem who has researched the West Bank for 10 years, said in 1986 that Israel collected more taxes than it spent on the occupied territories.

British-based Iranian reporter confesses to spying in Iraq for Israel

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An Iranian-born reporter with the London Sunday Observer has said in a television interview that he was on a spying mission for Israel when arrested last month in Iraq.

Farzad Bazoft, 31, has an Iranian passport with the right of residence in Britain. He was travelling on British documents when he was arrested Sept. 15. In the 25-minute interview screened by the state television, he said the British government was aware that he was an Israeli spy, and that his job as a reporter was only for cover.

Bazoft said he was "recruited by Israeli intelligence officers in London in 1987," when he was desperate to stay in Britain but did not have the means.

The officers, who first posed as friends, lured him by offering to help him stay in Britain. They gave him money and found him the job with the Observer, he said.

They later trained him on how to gather information they needed and how to write intelligence reports, he said.

He said his main job was "to gather information about Iraq's economic and military industrial targets, and information about the political situation and the morale of the people during and after the Gulf war."

A ceasefire halted the war in August last year.

Bazoft mentioned at least one previous visit to Iraq in 1988.

He spoke in English and an interpreter translated his answers into Arabic. It was not clear when the interview was recorded.

He appeared calm, and clean-shaven. He wore a blue jacket, a striped beige shirt and a dotted black tie.

Asked if the British government was aware that he was an Israeli spy, he said: "Yes, they were."

Asked if Britain had protested that, he said no.

"The Israelis are very effective and active in the United Kingdom, and both countries have strong relations and mutual interests," he added.

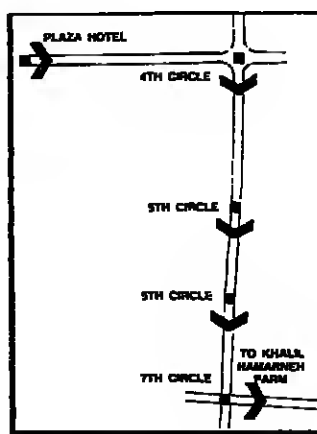
Bazoft admitted that a British nurse, Daphne Parish, 45, who was arrested in September for unknown reasons, was an acquaintance who had helped him obtain a four-wheel drive car to travel around Iraq.

He said he met Parish, who worked at the Ibn Al Bitar Hospital in Baghdad, on a previous trip in 1988, and that she had helped him take pictures of various Iraqi sites.



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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

9,194 Soviet Jews emigrate, 1,464 in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A total of 9,194 Jews have emigrated from the Soviet Union in October, and 1,464 of them arrived in Israel, the news agency Ilim reported Tuesday. Uri Gordon, head of the immigration department at the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental body that help handle new arrivals, told Ilim that a total of 51,080 Jews have left the Soviet Union so far this year. Of them, some 7,275 arrived in Israel, with the rest choosing to seek resettlement in other Western countries, Gordon said. Gordon said 284,550 Soviet Jews have requested sponsors abroad so far this year. Israeli officials predict half will come here.

Arafat seeks Algerian help

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday he had asked Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in talks to help push forward Middle East peace efforts. "I asked Chadli Benjedid to deploy efforts... for the holding without delay of an international conference so we can install a just and global peace in Palestine and the Middle East," Arafat told reporters. In remarks carried by the Algerian news agency APS Arafat said he had also discussed Israel's practices in the occupied territories, including attacks on religious shrines in occupied Jerusalem.

Soviet minister arrives in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — The Soviet Union's minister for foreign economic relations arrived in Tehran Wednesday at the head of an economic delegation, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. IRNA, received in Nicosia, said Konstantin Katushev was met by Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nourbakhsh. Katushev said on arrival Moscow was ready to cooperate with Tehran in economic fields and he expressed the hope that mutual ties would expand further, IRNA reported.

Spain offers asylum to death row Iranians

MADRID (R) — Spain has offered political asylum to 24 women facing execution in Iran but a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman admitted their case seemed hopeless. "They could be shot at any moment," said the ministry's human rights office director Mercedes Rico. But in the unlikely event they were freed they would find asylum in Spain, she said. "It's an almost impossible case," she told Reuters. "It is not normal for people sentenced to death to be freed, but this might save their lives by making the government realise other countries are concerned." Rico said human rights groups reported that 24 of 107 women sentenced to death for their political beliefs had been moved from Tehran's Evin prison, apparently for imminent execution. The Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women has said that its 78-year-old president, Mariam Firuz, and another of its leaders, 72-year-old Maleke Mohammadi.

Vincennes victim's widow files case

SEATTLE (AP) — The widow of a man who died in the downing of an Iranian passenger jet by a U.S. missile in 1988 is suing the United States government. The suit was filed in Seattle because Mitra Koochi, the plaintiff, has an uncle living in Bellevue, Washington, who holds her power of attorney. She and her two daughters are citizens of Iran. Timothy Farris and Mary Kay Becker, the lawyers who filed the case as a class action seeking unspecified damages in U.S. district court, said they believed it was the first suit stemming from the shooting down of the Airbus plane flown by Iran Air Lines on July 3, 1988.

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The candidate should preferably have at least 5 years of international commercial experience and a university degree in a related field. He or she should be fluent in English and Arabic and also have a good knowledge of computers. Fluency in French is highly desirable.

The successful candidate must be able to work independently with minimal supervision.

CANDIDATES FITTING THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION SHOULD FORWARD A COMPLETE RESUME TO:
P.O. Box: 830-683, AMMAN, JORDAN.
The deadline for applications is Nov. 9, 1989.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:00 Film Squad
18:30 News in Hebrew
18:30 Religious programme
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arabif film

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 News in Arabic
20:40 Guinness Record
21:10 Mart Headroom
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Rehearsal for Murder"

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr
07:45 Sunrise
11:19 Dhuhr
14:23 Asr
16:51 Maghreb
18:09 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 637981, 685526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815617 and 649922.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight rise in temperatures is expected and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 19 / 24
Aqaba 15 / 28
Deserts 8 / 26
Jordan Valley 14 / 29

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Inzan 653999

Dr. Amjad Nawras 781806

Dr. Khalid Eids 795392
Dr. Saad Abu Hatab 649846
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Aswani pharmacy 637055
Nistrukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Subda Al Zag (—)
Al Shaban pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Misbah Al Hijawi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 984417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 633101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport. 06-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akbel Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/8
Army, Maric 891617/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)91071

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Damaskus (RJ)
09:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Paris (RJ)
09:20 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
16:15 London (RJ)
16:30 Larnaca (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Damaskus, Paris (AF)
10:10 Frankfurt (LF)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
13:40 Riyadh (SV)
14:50 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
15:00 Kuwait (KU)
15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
16:30 Damascus, Dubai (EK)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)
06:15 Baghdad (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:10 Sama (LH)
10:00 Baghdad (IA)
12:00 Riyadh (SV)
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
14:05 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Dhahran (EK)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
19:00 Amsterdam (KL)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
06:05 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Rome (RJ)
11:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Larnaca (RJ)
13:00 Baghdad (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:15 Bangkok (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

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20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:15 Bangkok (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
10:00 Koran
10:15 Children programme
12:00 Religious programme
13:10 Sports programme
14:00 Religious programme
15:00 Message from Queen
16:15 Local programme
17:00 Local programme
18:30 News in Arabic
19:40 Local programme
20:30 Local programme
21:40 Local programme
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme count.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French play
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in Hebrew
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Mt. Belvedere
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
23:10 Thane's Company
PRAYER TIMES
04:30 Fajr
07:45 Sunrise
11:19 Dhuhr
14:23 Asr
16:51 Maghreb
18:09 Isha

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

ONE OF the strongest candidates in the Third District was rumoured to have withdrawn in favour of another strong candidate. I didn't know what to do when I heard this, I wanted to vote for him. Later, it was discovered that the rumour was unfounded. I think the human instrument has discovered a new tactic for discrediting his "most hated candidate."

THE GENERAL Security Department has banned the public from plastering pictures of candidates and their slogans on any part of any car, private or public, in accordance with Traffic Law Number 13.

We are gratified; we knew this would happen all along and have designed empty square boxes of wood furnished with leather suspenders to be worn by volunteers.

The boxes have four bare sides on which candidates can plaster anything they want. The volunteers can start a walkathon as soon as you make your order.

To order please send a letter to: Get Your Message Across Any Way You Can.

WHILE recounting the names of candidates who are participating in public debates in the capital, a Jordanian reporter kept mentioning the political leanings of each candidate. A foreign reporter, based in Amman, who was listening to the informal conversation, asked innocently: "Are candidates with absolutely no political leanings not holding any public debates?"

THE ISLAMIC movement has invited the public to attend a public gathering Friday in honour of six of its candidates in the First, Second and Third Districts of the capital.

"The rally will include chants and national poems," the announcement said, "but there was no mention of holding a question-answer session between the public and the candidates. Perhaps there are questions which the candidates may not exactly like to be asked?"

AN IMPRESSIVE observer, who is, by the way, a leader of a political movement, says his movements' candidates "are all those who call for a national unity between Jordanians and Palestinians." A quick reporter retorted: "Oh, then your movement is fielding almost every candidate in the elections."

AREAS which have a strong tribal presence agree that "Islamic" candidates "will have a very slim chance of winning in the elections because voters will choose their tribal leader over the Islamists." But then what happens when a tribal leader is also an Islamist? We must admit that the answer then can only be "Islam is the solution" whether we like it or not.

THE YOUNGEST and the oldest candidates in the Third District will lead a walkathon in support of themselves on Friday. The walk will start at the Marriott Hotel and end at the oldest candidate's home in the Fifth Circle. They will probably reach the oldest candidate's home but the important question is: Will they reach the Lower House of Parliament?

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

NOV. 8 HOLIDAY: An official statement issued Wednesday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said that Wednesday, Nov. 8, will be a public holiday. The announcement said that this measure was taken to enable employees and workers to vote in the general elections. In another development, the Public Security Department (PSD) banned election stickers and posters regardless of shape or size, on vehicles. The PSD said that placing stickers and posters on cars is considered as a violation of Article 13 of the traffic law. (Petra)

INTERIOR MINISTERS' MEETING: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'adeh Wednesday received a message from Egyptian Minister of Interior Major-General Zaki Badr. The message, which was delivered by Egypt's Ambassador to Jordan Muhab Mungbel, dealt with scopes of bilateral cooperation and matters related to the Arab Interior Ministers Council meetings due to convene in Cairo in December. Masa'adeh also received the Brazilian ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him matters of common interest to both countries. (Petra)

CARTOGRAPHY UNIT: Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib Wednesday opened a cartography unit at the ministry. The unit will be entrusted with preparing geological maps needed for the ministry's operations. The equipment for the unit was supplied by the British government.

JORDAN-GERMANY PROJECT MEMO: The Cabinet Tuesday endorsed an agreement on exchange of memos of understanding between the governments of Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany dealing with supporting a renewable energy resources project carried out by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society.

LUFTHANSA PRESENTATION: Lufthansa's area manager Mr. Ger von Götze and his wife will host tonight a Lufthansa Business Class presentation with a show and gala dinner at Amra Hotel.

RELUCTANT DEBUTANTE: The next Hotel Jordan International/Brilliant Airways Playhouse production from 7-12 November, 1989 is William Douglas Homes' "The Reluctant Debutante" starring Barbara Murray & Frank Thornton. The play, which is also sponsored by Spinneys and Eagle Distilleries Company concerns the debutante who is totally uninterested in her mother's valiant efforts to give her a successful season and much prefers the company of horses to that of the chinless dorks who are assigned to her as escorts. The Reluctant Debutante is written by the Hon William Douglas Home (younger brother of Britain's former Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas Home). (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddumi displaying oil and watercolor paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* Islamic calligraphy exhibition at Jordan National Gallery.

* A film art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Jordanian Artists Jamal Ashour, Hazem Al Zaidi, Ghada Dahab and Mohammad Al Jalous at Petra Bank Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan gears up for media influx

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian information media apparatus is slowly gearing up to meet what could perhaps be one of the major challenges in recent times; foreign and local media coverage of the Nov. 8 general elections.

It is estimated at least 200 foreign journalists, television crew and radio commentators and technicians will converge on Amman to cover the Kingdom's first general elections in 22 years. Logistically, it poses a major problem not only for the authorities directly in charge of elections but also for the Telecommunications Corporation and other related bodies.

A press centre is to be set up at the Plaza Hotel, under the charge of the official spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, Salameh Hammad. The centre will be equipped with 10 international telephone lines and five local ones, four fax machines and two telex machines. Satellite ground station links will be available through special arrangements with Jordan Television.

Jordan Television will broadcast election results every hour, but the final results will be announced by Minister of Interior Salem Masa'adeh some time around Thursday noon.

The Ministry of Information has arranged four trips in which four buses will take journalists to the polling centres in different parts of the Kingdom.

One bus is to go to Karak, Ma'an, Tafleh and the southern desert, a second is destined for Ma'raq, Irbid and the northern bedouin region a third will go to Zarqa, Madaba and the central desert, and a fourth bus will go to Salt and the Jordan Valley. Journalists seeking to take advantage of the facility should contact the Ministry of Information.

Special Ministry of Interior badges will be issued to journalists who wish to visit polling centres. The badges authorise entry to the centres during polling hours but not after they close.

Unofficial results of polling in constituencies with relatively small number of voters could be expected as early as late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Most observers expect a smooth process of balloting and doubt whether any repolling will be necessary in any of the polling centres. According to the Election Law of 1986 and its amendments, some of the situations that warrant repolling are:

— The total number of ballots polled in a district or polling centre exceeds by five per cent the number of total voters in the designated district or polling centre.

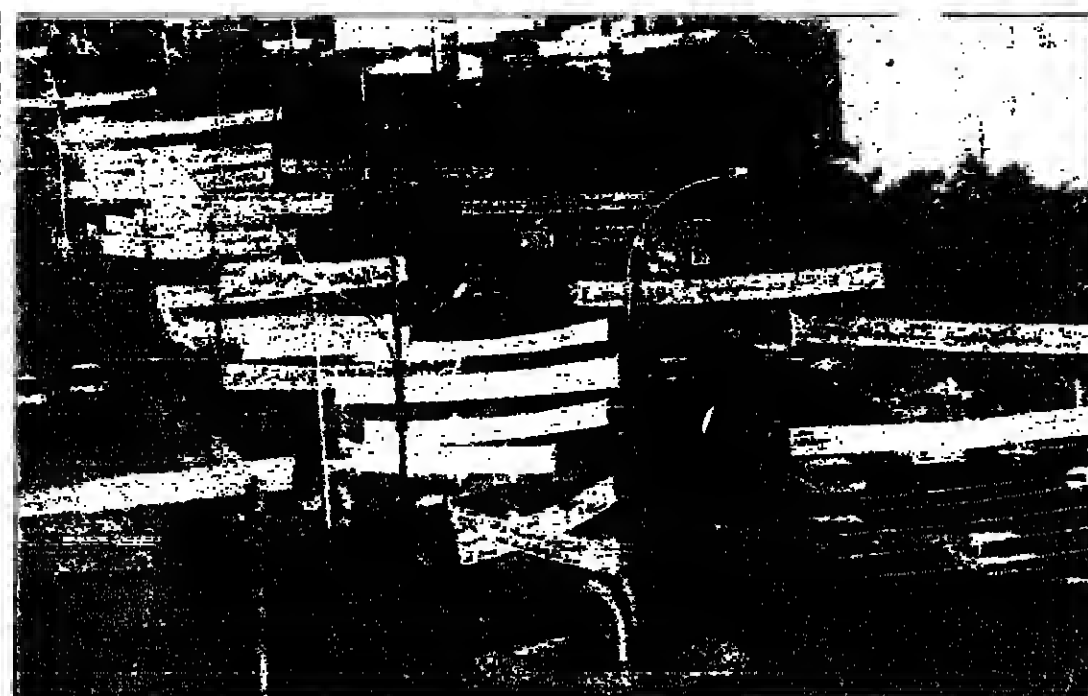
— The number of votes secured by two or more candidates are exactly the same. In this case, repolling will be conducted only for the particular seat in the constituency.

Cairo talks tackle financing of Arab voluntary societies

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

CAIRO — The problem of financing the activities of voluntary societies and difficulties of marketing their products was discussed at the conference on the activities of private voluntary organisations in the Arab World Wednesday.

Dr. Sari Nasser, a professor at the University of Jordan, presented a working paper on the role of charitable and voluntary



Amman streets are adorned with thousands of banners proclaiming the platforms of candidates in the Nov. 8 general elections. (Photo by Youssef Al 'Atlan)

Elections and the electorate — the national identity factor

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Despite the high number of eligible Jordanian voters who trace their family roots to the other side of the river Jordan, the organisation which represents Palestinians worldwide is not fielding any candidates in the Nov. 8 elections for the Lower House of Parliament or attempting to influence the electorate as an organised group, according to election observers and officials.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), recognised by the Arab World and majority of the international community as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, has officially said that it will not interfere in the polls. "We are very happy about the elections in Jordan," said a senior PLO official who lives in Amman. "The PLO sees the Jordanian elections as a very positive development," said Mohammed Milhem, an executive member of the PLO and Palestine National Council (PNC) member.

"The election will strengthen Jordan's position in the international scene and anything that strengthens Jordan's position will also strengthen the PLO," Milhem told the Jordan Times in an interview.

At the same time, he said, the PLO as an organisation is not in any way involved in influencing the elections. But if individual members of the PLO are supporting certain candidates, "they are exercising their right as Jordanians," Milhem said.

"My wife and children are going to vote as Jordanian citizens," he added. "But as a PLO official, I will not be voting." By law, no PLO official or PNC member is allowed to run in Jordanian elections, and Milhem estimated the total number of such people at less than 600.

But the line is very thin when it comes to defining involvement, especially concerning Palestinian factions which have what they describe as Jordanian "branches" and supporting their own candidates in the elections.

Thus, whereas the PLO as an entity is advocating strict neutrality in the Jordanian elections, several PLO factions have rallied behind candidates and are openly campaigning for them.

Several of these factions see unity of the Arab World as a prerequisite to the liberation of Palestine and they justify the existence of their "branches" in Arab countries based on this ideological argument.

According to a candidate who is openly supported by one of these factions, his backers are "concerned with every aspect of Middle East politics, including Jordanian elections."

"Palestine is the central concern to us but we also are concerned

with developments in the whole Arab World. All the Arab countries must play a part in the liberation of Palestine," said the candidate.

"We consider ourselves a Jordanian party, not a branch of the PLO or any other group or institution in the election," he said.

PLO formally states stand

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday issued a statement urging all candidates running for the Nov. 8 elections to refrain from involving it in any bid or slogan to win voters' favour; and said that the PLO was by no means involved in any campaign for any of the candidates.

The statement, issued by the embassy of the State of Palestine in Amman, said the appeal was made following rumours by candidates that the PLO supports or approves of certain candidates.

"The PLO highly appreciates Jordan's position at the official and public levels, and its support for the struggle of the Palestinian people in their uprising against Israeli occupation and for self-determination on Palestinian soil," the statement said.

"The PLO also appreciates the serious responsibility taken by the Jordanian government to hold elections as a purely Jordanian affair," the statement said.

It said that the move was clearly designed to "recognise Jordan's domestic affairs and an endeavour to confront the common enemy and its expansionist designs, especially in the wake of Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank."

The PLO, the statement concluded, "appeals to all candidates to refrain from exploiting its name in the current campaign in favour of any candidate and stresses its determination not to interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab country."

But even if there were no official PLO candidates, whether supported by the mainstream or any of the factions, the unique nature of Jordanian-Palestinian links appears to prompt voters to support candidates who they think can positively influence Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the future. "They should vote and play a role in the country's development but no one expects them to forget their original identity," said an election observer. "If Jordanians who are also members of the PLO support a candidate, then they are doing it as Jordanians."

Another Third District voter said: "I am a Jordanian and a Palestinian at the same time. Personally I am going to vote for candidates of East Bank origin since I think they should play the major role in Parliament."

In the final analysis, one thing remains certain; whether originally Palestinian or Jordanian, the main concern of the voter is to ensure that a new, strong Parliament addresses national issues in their right framework and contribute to the Kingdom's development, politically, socially, culturally and economically.

Referring to Jordan's experiment in social work, Nasser outlined the work of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which, he said, cares for the handicapped and the very needy.

The law also provides for the formation of a special council known as the National Council for the Welfare of Handicapped Persons chaired by Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas. The council groups secretaries general of the ministries of education, health, higher education and social development as well as representatives of the ministries of culture and information, the National Medical Institution and a number of social development organisations in the Kingdom.

Following the Royal Decree, the council met under the chairmanship of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zeid, and with the participation of Dr. Mohammad Sqour from the Ministry of Social Development.

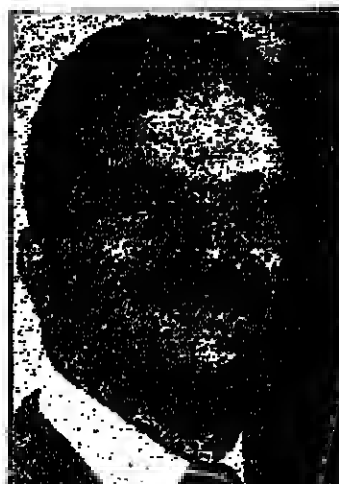
Education challenge needs planning — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — One of Jordan's main future challenges will be the growth in its population, which is bound to create a bigger problem for the country in the field of education, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

"The education challenge requires organisational and planning measures to be taken now including one pertaining to the work of teachers and parents' councils," the prince said in an address to a meeting attended by educationalists, teachers and parents at Amman Hotel.

"Teachers and parents councils should prepare well-planned programmes for their work in each governorate to contribute to the educational process," Prince Hassan added. He said that these councils were needed so that schools in Jordan in the future will serve as educational, social and cultural centres for the community.

Prince Hassan said a newly established National Centre for Educational Development will embark on its task shortly. This centre, he said, was established within the framework of a national effort to promote educational studies and research programmes



H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan

especially in helping to draw up educational strategies and promoting the educational process and to improve educational services at the lowest possible cost.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister of Education Adnan Badran said the meeting, which was called by Prince Hassan, was designed to stimulate the role of the teachers and parents' councils to operate as essential factors in the educational process.

Election colours — a blurred prism

By Abdullatif Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Islamic bloc for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections raises the banner "Islam is the solution," meaning the solution for all ills, be they national or universal. The bloc, nevertheless, concedes in its programme that ideologies for change are many, but that it only believes in Islamic methods for "changing the individual, the family and the society."

The bloc calls for a "comprehensive change in all aspects of life; political, economic, social, educational, informational, military and health." The bloc calls for the adoption of Islamic shura — consultation — as a means for public participation, as opposed to Western-style democracy, a concept many Islamic scholars maintain is alien to Islam.

On the other end of the political spectrum of pluralism, the leftists of all shades are calling for democracy and pluralism. The left, if one is allowed to use the expression, has also some radical solutions for some of the country's problems, notably the economic crisis, that have brought on the group the wrath of the print media.

As matters stand these days, anything is possible in Jordan except a prediction of the colours (s) of the new parliament. It will certainly be up to the people to decide the outcome of the elections. The "Islamists" predict they will win; they maintain that as the majority of the people are Muslims, they would opt for the "Islamic solution." The leftists, though less optimistic, hope they will win, although not spectacularly as many of them admit.

If the "Islamists" win more seats than the leftists, the leftists maintain, it would be the result of years of forced absence from the political scene in the country. They argue that while people flocked to mosques on Friday, they were unable to propagate their ideologies and thus were isolated from the people. It would be in order to note here that some of the most radical leftists are Christians running for Christian seats and depending on Muslim votes to reach parliament.

So what about the centre? Here, apart from red and

green, we have all colours: traditionalists, tribalists, liberals and pro-establishment figures. Those who will certainly dominate the new parliament, making any prediction still all the more difficult.

In the middle of all this, the media are making their impact on the whole process. The media have been waging a persistent campaign aimed at watering down candidates' slogans and programmes. Attributing from in-depth reporting on debates, the media opted for opinion columns most of which question the sincerity and practicality of campaign programmes.

The media campaign was originally a gainst the left which advocated slogans as extreme as cancelling the agreement with the IMF. But as "Muslim" candidates' programmes became more clear especially on social issues and with the unfolding of the Tawajjuh trial, the media's focus shifted right.

So where do people stand on all of this? Statistically, 1.02 million people are registered voters for the elections, mostly "registered" by the candidates. This figure represents only 80 per cent of the eligible electorate. Only around 66 per cent of the 1.02 million have collected their cards — with the lowest turnout in the cities — and all indications point that only half of them will go to the polling stations on Nov. 8. That means only 30 per cent of the electorate will vote. This is a very low turnout for a people that for two decades were deprived of their right to elect their own representatives.

The 30 per cent who will vote on Nov. 8 are certainly the most politically and, of course, tribally active. One analyst thinks that 15 per cent will vote in line with their tribal affiliations while only 10 per cent will vote for political candidates. If that is true, then only 10 per cent of eligible Jordanian voters are politically active, and this percentage would be a faithful representation of a people that were for decades absent from the country's political process.

Thus, two questions remain unanswered: Why is there people apathy towards the elections despite the euphoria created by 650 candidates? And what will be the outcome of the polls?

Council set up to help the handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Wednesday endorsing a law on the welfare of handicapped people and entrusting the Ministry of Social Development with the task of improving the conditions and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

The law also provides for the formation of a special council known as the National Council for the Welfare of Handicapped Persons chaired by Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas. The council groups secretaries general of the ministries of education, health, higher education and social development as well as representatives of the ministries of culture and information, the National Medical Institution and a number of social development organisations in the Kingdom.

Following the Royal Decree, the council met under the chairmanship of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zeid, and with the participation of Dr. Mohammad Sqour from the Ministry of Social Development.

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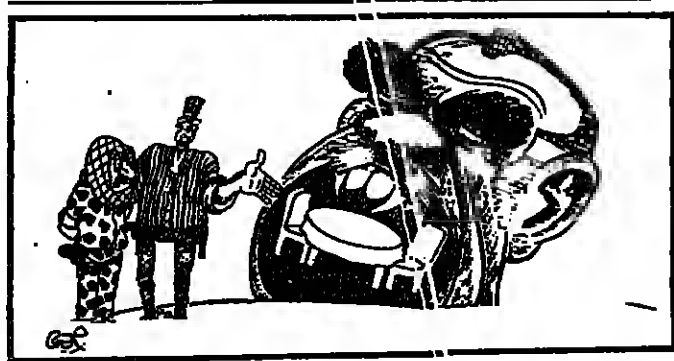
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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

International endorsement

THE SEAL of approval affixed by the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on the Taif Accord is the biggest boost yet to the terms of that agreement on the Lebanese conflict. At a time when there is still some doubts as to whether the Taif breakthrough, notably the Mich el Aoun, the words spoken Tuesday by the five members of the world on Lebanon should serve notice on the force s still hostile to the will of the international community on what is best for Lebanon that their opposition is vain. Fortunately, General Aoun is getting more isolated in his last ditch effort to derail the Taif Accord. The majority of his Christian supporters are being led by one led principally by the Maronite arch, Naurallah Sfeir, the Falangists and the Lebanese forces, the largest Christian militia. So with the dissipation of all remnants of credible opposition to the Taif Accord, the blessing of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council comes as an act of solid fortification of what the Arab efforts have succeeded in achieving in Saudi Arabia.

Accordingly, there is really nothing that could stop the Lebanese deputies from going ahead with their plans to convene and officially approve the Taif Accord and elect a new president for the country by Nov. 7. The countdown has thus started for the beginning of a new Lebanon that will be launched on Nov. 7 and, God willing, nothing will henceforth interrupt this process that aims at a fresh start for Lebanon and its people. It would be more than encouraging if General Michel Aoun joins this new process and lends his support to it even at this late stage. He should realise by now that the giant wave carrying forth the new foundations of contemporary Lebanon is simply unstoppable and anything he in vests and does to thwart it will come to naught.

Meanwhile hats off to Arab diplomacy, notably to Saudi Arabia, that succeeded against formidable odds. Without the determination of the Saudi leadership, the opportunities offered by the Arab mediation team would have slipped away as they had done on many previous occasions. A word of appreciation is also in order to Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahim for his relentless efforts to execute the mandate of the tripartite Arab Higher Committee under most difficult conditions. But the biggest salute and appreciation go to the Lebanese people for giving themselves and their country a real opportunity to pick up from where it had left off some fifteen years ago.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday again discussed the election campaign and the coming parliament in Jordan urging all candidates to adopt a clear and reasonable course of action to win the voters and later to serve their country if they are elected. The paper reminded the candidates of the critical stage and the numerous challenges confronting the Kingdom, and said they require relentless work and dedication and positive action. How to deal with the challenges facing their country should be the main priority for all candidates, and how to solve problems should be the guidance for their future work, said the paper. The Jordanian family, the paper said, is in need of a conscientious people to sit in the legislative council, and is in need of serious action if the challenges and the difficulties are to be met. It is time for all candidates and aspirants for parliament membership to come up with proposals that can help the country deal with its problems, said the paper.

Al Dastour in an editorial Wednesday said that one week remains before the general elections in the Kingdom and the Jordanian citizens are making ready to vote for their favourite candidates. One week from now Jordan will be entering a new phase of democratic rule with the advent of the new Lower House of Parliament which will be helping the executive authority to discharge government business and enact laws that serve the national interest, said the paper. The paper reminded its readers of the King's call on the Jordanian people to elect only those candidates who are truly committed to and serious about serving the people and their country. It also reminded the public of the King's statement in which he emphasised that the future of the country now lies with the people who should elect the most qualified and dedicated candidates to lead the country in the years to come.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily discussed Lebanon and said that the Lebanese deputies are now called on to pave the way for a national reconciliation and a drive to establish stability and security in Lebanon. The paper warned of the danger of partition, and backed a call by the head of the Christian Maronite church in Lebanon on the deputies to forge ahead with their plan to restore security and peace to their country. The paper said thanks to the Arab League mediation efforts and the serious endeavours of the deputies, the way is now paved for a return to peace in Lebanon. The paper also expressed hope that the Lebanese people will unify their ranks and back pan-Arab efforts to save their country from further disasters and tragedies.

Unthinkable? Don't worry, its happening in Beit Sahour

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — Suppose the people of some small American town decided to protest Federal Government policy by withholding their taxes. The government responded by sending in the army. Soldiers cut all telephone lines to the town. They stopped food from coming in and barred all visitors. They imposed a curfew from 6:30 every evening to 4:30 in the morning. They went into homes and took furniture and other belongings worth many times a family's unpaid taxes. They broke into shops and dumped goods in the streets. They arrested people and held them for days without charge.

Unthinkable? Of course it is, in this country. But it is happening in another, right now. And the government responsible is not some remote totalitarian regime. It is the government of an American ally, one that we have admired as an outpost of democracy and law: Israel.

Israeli soldiers have sealed off the town of Beit Sahour, in the occupied West Bank, since Sept. 22. Telephone lines have been cut. The town has been declared a "closed military zone" and everyone from the outside world kept out — sympathetic Israelis, journalists, Western diplomats. Christian bishops who tried to bring three truckloads of food in the other day were turned back.

Beit Sahour is a town of 15,000, almost all Christians, near Bethlehem. It is a middle-class place. This summer its business and other leaders decided, as their part in the Palestinian protest against occupation, to withhold payment of Israeli taxes.

Taxation without representation is a grievance in any case.

Despite the blockade, quite a lot has been reported about what has happened in Beit Sahour since Sept. 22. The army has seized property worth many times the tax claims. It has ransacked shops. And according to the residents, it has systematically harassed and humiliated the people of Beit Sahour.

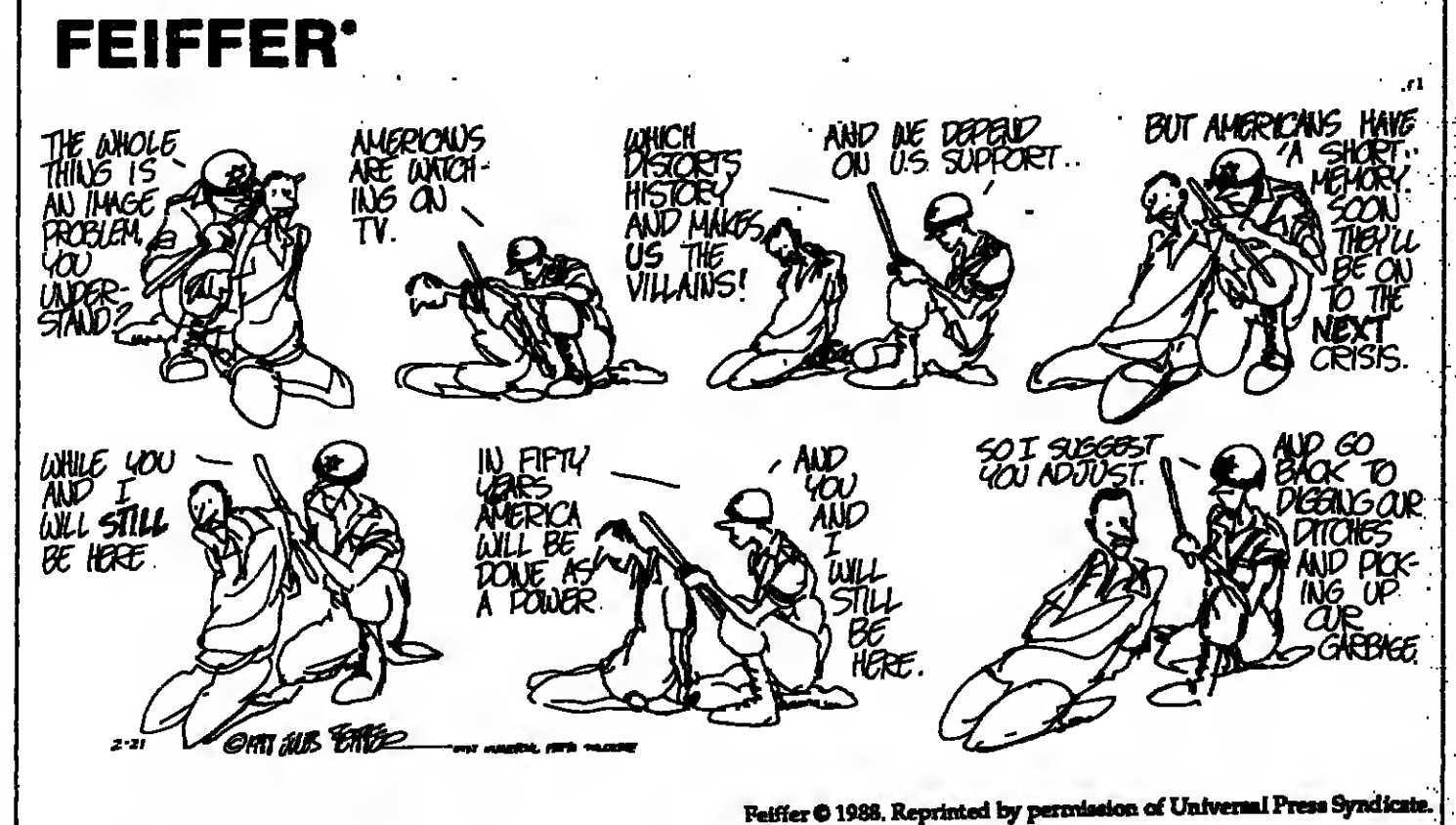
I telephoned an Israeli who knows the town well, Hillel Bardin, a computer programmer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. For the last 18 months he has been part of a group of Israelis carrying on a dialogue with a group from Beit Sahour, exchanging visits and talking about Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Mr. Bardin began by saying that, apart from the tax protest, those in Beit Sahour who have spoken out for peace with Israel have been punished. He mentioned two men in his dialogue group, Jamal Hilal and Ghassan Antoni.

"Both have been arrested repeatedly since July," he said. "They are never questioned or charged with anything, just held for 18 days as Israel's law allows."

The last time, Oct. 25, they were beaten so badly by soldiers on the way to headquarters that Jamal still cannot walk properly. They are in prison again."

As to the tax protest, Mr. Bardin said the reports of harassment and force in the government's response were true. He said he had seen one man who was bloodied when soldiers came and took his furniture. At Elias Rishmawi's pharmacy, he said, "they put all the medicines in a large shipping container and left



it in the sun until the drugs spoiled."

Any government will act against a concerted refusal to pay taxes. But the normal course is to act by law — by attacking property, and selling enough to pay the tax due. Israel has those legal remedies available. It is using military repression to show the Palestinians, as Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has candidly said,

that they cannot resist the occupation.

The irony is that Israel complains, rightly, when Palestinians use violence. Beit Sahour has chosen a totally nonviolent means of protest, and Israel is using force to crush it.

Beit Sahour's latest idea is to hold prayers for peace in its Roman Catholic church next Sunday. It is asking President Bush

and other world leaders to send representatives. If they did, would the Israeli army keep them out?

Some American supporters of Israel complain that the press pays too much attention to Israel's faults. The example of Beit Sahour shows that the oppressive reality of the occupation is in fact insufficiently known — to outsiders or to Israelis. If

they knew it was happening, if they knew that Palestinians who want a peaceful solution are being punished, I think more Israelis would be ready to end the occupation.

"I am an Israeli who cares about the security of his country," Mr. Bardin said. "I believe that if Israelis could see what is really going on, we would have peace." — The New York Times.

Peace at last for Lebanon

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

PARIS — After 14 years of civil war, Muslims and Christians in Lebanon have drawn up a new charter for sharing power that recognises the dominant weight of the country's Muslim population and the country's Arab identity. The deal struck recently, holds a promise of an end to a murderous conflict, but it is still hard to say that peace in Lebanon is at hand.

The charter was drawn up in Taif, Saudi Arabia, at the end of a three-week conference of 62 Lebanese members of parliament, half of them Muslims and half Christians. It offers something to all the religious and ethnic groups of Lebanon, which include Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims, Druse, and such Christian groups as Maronite Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Armenians.

The Muslim majority gains a greater role in decision-making at the expense of the Christians, and Syria gains legitimacy for its military presence in Lebanon.

Perhaps most important, the delicately balanced accord offers all the groups, Christians included, a reason to hope that Lebanon can again be a unified country. Still, not a single Lebanese analyst interviewed in Taif during the conference or in Paris last week would go so far as to say the accord meant peace for Lebanon.

The warring militias appeared cool to the accord last week, primarily because it demands that they disband their forces and turn over their weapons within six months. Nevertheless, the strong Arab support for the agreement was subduing any open challenge by the militias, at least for the moment.

The commander of the Lebanese Army's Christian units, Gen. Michel Aoun, who has been Syria's foremost enemy, seemed to be alone in insisting that the agreement would "lead Lebanon to hell." And even he was backing away from his threats to fight those who signed the accord, as other Christian leaders conceded that the deal was the best they could get.

The Maronite Catholic Patriarch, Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, endorsed the agreement and the principal Christian militia leader, Samir Geagea, did not oppose it. As for the Muslim militias, Amal, the pro-Syrian Shi'ite movement, did not hide its antipathy, but chose to stand on the sidelines rather than resist when its Syrian masters went along. Similarly, the pro-Iranian Party of God, the more radical fundamentalist Shi'ite movement, also appeared compliant for the moment under pressure from the Syrians. The frankest of all was the Druse leader Walid Jumlat, who said that he did not like the accord but that "it was better to be under Syrian heels than Christian heels."

The negotiators in Taif have been members of parliament since the last legislative election was held in 1974. The heart of the new political arrangements they agreed on is a reduction in the privileged role that Maronite

Catholics exercised until now, based on the charter under which Lebanon became independent of France in 1943. Then Christians claimed to represent roughly half the population. Reliable statistics on Lebanon's population are unavailable, but it appears certain that a higher Muslim birth rate and Christian emigration have reduced the Christian share of the population considerably.

After much debate with the 31 Muslim representatives, the 31 Christians agreed that the Arab guarantees that Syria would eventually withdraw from Lebanon made it worthwhile to risk concessions to the Muslims.

But none of the legislators spoke confidently of the chances for immediate peace, either. Ghassan Salamah, an expert on Lebanon who teaches at the University of Paris, said the accord was less a peace agreement than "an incentive system that puts more people in a position of having a vested interest in a cessation of war." Some legislators in Taif, as well as other analysts of Arab affairs, spoke of an "extended ceasefire," a "break from the fighting," or a compromise that gives everyone part of what they wanted.

"It will be a long road before Lebanon returns to anything you can call normal," said Adel Malek, a former political commentator on Lebanese television who produces documentaries on Arab affairs from London.

For now, Lebanon's hope is fed by the endorsement of the deal by Arab countries that include Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The accord has

support as well from the United States, France, the Soviet Union and other powers.

But Lebanon has had many disappointments, and this accord is not so much a peace agreement as it is a wider diffusion of power. It stresses the rights of some previously ignored ethnic and religious minority groups like the Shi'ites and the Druse to share in decision-making. It continues to reflect the historical roles of other groups by guaranteeing the Maronite Catholics that they will keep some power, and by expanding the power exercised by the Sunni Muslims.

The accord recognises the Sunnis' rights to retain a special relationship with their protector, Syria. It seems to leave out two other foreign powers, Iran and Israel, that control militias in Lebanon, but for the moment neither of these countries appears disposed to block it.

Even if the deal is successful, though, the process of putting Lebanon together will be a long one. It includes the election of a new president, a new Parliament and eventually a new institution in Lebanese politics, a Senate. The presidency remains in Maronite hands, but loses much power. The Parliament's Shi'ite president gains a strong voice in decision-making because the office carries a four-year term. The Sunnis gain because the prime minister will share decision-making in national security. And the Senate was invented to give the Druse a voice by reserving the Senate presidency for a member of the sect.

Promises and winks

The Parliament will increase in size from 99 seats to 106, with the additional seats going to Shi'ites and Druse. The Shi'ites, generally thought to be the fastest growing ethnic group, have also been promised that the system of allocating government jobs by religion will be eliminated by the third Parliament to be elected after the accord goes into effect.

The whole equation rests on promises and winks — not altogether a new way of doing business in Lebanon. Saudi and Arab diplomats said the Syrians have promised that they will move their estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon first to the Bekaa region in eastern Lebanon and, eventually, back home. But nothing in the agreement speaks explicitly about Syrian withdrawal. The Arab League has promised to hold a conference to put pressure on Syria if it does not cooperate, but that prospect also is not in the accord. It was in return for these promises that the Christian legislators agreed to the changes.

While it is impossible to predict the outcome, a faint optimism has begun to float in the Arab World. It rises from the fact that Lebanon's fate is now more clearly being decided within a pan-Arab coalition, even though many of its members are not fond of one another.

And there is another reason for hope. Simply put, most Lebanese are tired of war.

— The New York Times.

OPEN FORUM

Open letter to candidates

AS the day of parliamentary elections nears, many people find it unusual to see that very few are stepping down from the race. With over 650 candidates running for 80 seats and with the government's honourable position of not using article 18 (c) of the Elections Law, voters expected that there will be quite a number of candidates stepping down to allow other stronger candidates more votes.

The majority of candidates, be they progressive, liberal, moderates or even right-wing, are demanding through their slogans and public programmes democratic freedoms, economic reform, corruption clean-up, and support for the Palestinian Intifada. So if the majority of candidates have the same hopes, how do they plan to even get a parliamentary seat if the votes are going to be divided between so many hopefuls?

It was said that some candidates had earlier promised that if others were allowed to run for elections for the same seats, they would withdraw from the race to ensure the votes go to other stronger candidates with the same political leanings. This has not yet happened. The deadline for candidates' withdrawal is Nov. 6, two days before people go to the polls.

Many are hoping that voters will be surprised when certain candidates, especially in the Amman area, will withdraw before the deadline, to allow more votes for those who have stronger chances to reach parliament.

Candidates: If you are running for elections because you are truly concerned with the people's aspirations and rights, and want what is best for the citizens, then step down for the stronger ones who represent your beliefs. If you don't step down now, then it will be obvious to the voters that you are only concerned with yourself, and with getting yourself in that seat, no matter what the price. You are discrediting yourself with your voters, and you will lose anyway. The problem is that the other candidates who represent your beliefs will also lose. Just think what candidates will get to parliament if you are being selfish, and worried about the money you have already spent on your campaign. Forget fame...remember the people you aspire to serve.

Voter Sana Atiyeh

Another October revolution?

By John-Thor Dahlburg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Seven recent days in Soviet politics might seem like a chapter in a mini-October revolution: the Kremlin admitted it broke a superpower arms treaty, confessed its currency is worth a tenth of its official value and even pruned the power of the KGB and Communist party.

Meanwhile, the top foreign ministry spokesman reasserted the right of countries that have been in thrall to Moscow since the cold war to show political independence.

Some recent Soviet moves seem pure public relations plays. For example, when Mikhail S. Gorbachev announced in Finland last week that the Soviet Baltic fleet will junk four nuclear submarines, Western experts noted the craft are aging and headed for the scrapyard anyway.

But other actions depart dramatically from long-time Kremlin practice. Their rationale seems to be a creeping feeling in Moscow that in the fifth year of Gorbachev's social and economic reforms, something must be done to shore up foreign and domestic support as the nation heads into a winter that could bring food shortages and more unrest. Gorbachev has given himself

and his entourage 18 months to improve things. "We understand and feel close to the suffering of the people," he told Pravda editors last week. "We have to solve these problems, eliminate the tension. It has to be done immediately, in the coming few months, in the coming year and a half."

Last week, Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze went before lawmakers at the Kremlin and acknowledged what U.S. policymakers had claimed since the presidency of Ronald Reagan — that the Soviet decision to build a giant radar station in the wilds of Siberia at Krasnoyarsk violated the superpowers' 1972 anti-Ballistic missile treaty.

During years of wrangling over interpretation of the accord, the foreign minister said, "there stood the station, the size of an Egyptian pyramid, representing, to put it bluntly, a violation of the ABM treaty." It may have been the first time the Soviets acknowledged violating a treaty with Washington.

U.S. officials hailed the Soviets for coming clean about Krasnoyarsk, which they'd already agreed to demolish. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater called Shevardnadze's admission "a step in the right direction" that could spur further progress on

disarmament by boosting trust in the Kremlin's word.

The foreign minister also admitted the Kremlin's Afghanistan adventure had violated Soviet laws and morals.

Later in the week, the Soviets made another virtual confession, this time admitting what black marketers, foreign residents and many Soviets had long known: The nation's currency, the ruble, wasn't worth anything near its official exchange rate. The Kremlin decreed a spectacular drop in its value from \$1.59 to 16 cents for certain transactions.

The move was seen by financial experts in the West as proof of the Kremlin leadership's willingness to push for Soviet integration into the world economy, in large part because Gorbachev needs foreign capital, know-how and markets to give the faltering state-run economy a shot in the arm and modernise rickety Soviet industry.

The October developments come against the background of the great changes also taking place in East Europe. Hungary's Communists now want to be called Socialists. A non-Communist prime minister governs in Poland. East Germany dumped its longtime leader following a hemorrhage of its citizenry to the West. Last Sunday, Soviet spokes-

man Gennady I. Gerasimov assured Americans that such developments, which once might have triggered Soviet intervention, were now regarded in Moscow with placidity.

He said "Hungary, Poland, every other country, has its own way. They decide which road to take. It's their business. And we watch, watch closely, but we do not interfere."

The past week in Moscow also brought changes touching two institutional bastions of Soviet rule — the KGB and the party — although as in foreign policy, it is not yet possible to divide the substantive from the cosmetic.

As part of its own "perestroika," or restructuring, the KGB eliminated its feared 5th directorate, which in the 1970s rode herd on Soviet dissidents, hounded writers, locked human rights and religious activists away in mental hospitals and harassed Jews seeking to emigrate.

Announcing the abolishment, KGB chief Vladimir A. Kryuchkov proclaimed: "In and of themselves, thoughts and convictions, no matter what they are, are not considered crimes." Dissident activists, however, suggested other KGB agencies might simply take up the work of the 5th directorate.

The Supreme Soviet, the na-

tion's legislature, voted last week to strip the Communist Party and other privileged social organizations of the seats reserved for them in the legislature's parent body, the Congress of People's Deputies.

The old system enabled Gorbachev and most other members of the ruling party politburo to be elected to the congress not by voters from a given electoral district, but directly by the party's policy-making central committee.

If the congress itself approves the law, the party will lose its 100 reserved seats and Kremlin leaders like Gorbachev will presumably have to run for a seat in the congress like other candidates, with the possibility of losing to an opponent.

During his visit to Finland last week, Gorbachev at one point mused out loud in front of the TV cameras about the nature of knowledge. He could have been speaking as well of why it may be necessary sometimes to improvise in politics, as the Soviets have done.

"At some stage, I realised that the learning process consists of movement from a state of not knowing to knowing even less," Gorbachev said. "Because the more you know, the more you feel like you don't know anything."

JPL, in USA

Focus on People

Splendors and mysteries

"Of splendors and mysteries" is the most appropriate translation of the German title "Pracht und Geheimnis," the 430-page catalogue of Widad Kavar's collection of Palestinian and Jordanian traditional costumes and jewelry. For years Jordanians, in Jordan and those abroad have heard of the treasures Widad Kavar has accumulated over 40 years. Although numerous articles have been written about her and her collection in over half a dozen languages in the last 15 years, many Jordanians continue to ask "where is her store, I want to buy a dress," while others who know she is a collector and not a merchant ask "when does she wear them all?" or "doesn't her husband mind building so many closets for all those dresses?" Silly questions are usually asked out of ignorance and thus Widad Kavar consented to speak to Focus on People this week to tell the story of how and why it all began and what her collection really means.

The truth of the matter is the full story of the collection was never told, at least not in Jordan. While many Jordanian ladies of society, members of foreign delegations stationed in Jordan and those women who are professionally involved in maintaining Jordanian and Palestinian traditional arts and crafts — the most obvious of which is the traditional dress — are well acquainted with Kavar's collection, many of them have only a superficial idea about the origins and significance of the collection.

In a world where innumerable civilizations were born to live or die, where great empires rose and fell, where all three monotheistic religions were born and where conquerors the world over vied and still vie for a chance divide and rule, appreciation of one's own culture has been rather limited throughout history, as Arabs are and have always been excessively open and appreciative of all things new and foreign.

Although grandiose lip service is always being paid to "our cultural heritage," to wear traditional dresses has become more of a fashion fad among the well to do than a conscious statement of separate and unique identity.

Although the traditional costumes of Jordan and Palestine have frequently been described as "treasures of our past," museum pieces and ethnological artifacts, many village and bedouin women

still wear the traditional dress daily. Thus the dress, the way of life it stands for and the rich history it testifies to are very much alive.

Widad Kavar, was born in Tul-karm, grew up in Bethlehem and went to school in Ramallah, three large flourishing towns in what is now Israeli occupied Palestine. As a schoolgirl she developed a keen interest in the traditional dresses, "because I was living in the centre of the village fashion industry at the time. Bethlehem was the marketplace for women from villages all over southern Palestine and they would come to town on market day which was Saturday to sell vegetables, fruits and handicrafts and to buy threads, yarns and materials. The colorful array of dresses they would wear was like a rainbow, colourful, bright and warm."

Many Bethlehem women were quite independent and they ran many shops on their own, they had become very capable businesswomen due to the fact that they had been made responsible for many a household after many of their men had immigrated to North and South America in search of better fortunes leaving them behind.

Although I am a city girl and never wore a traditional dress I asked one of my mothers relatives, from the village of Aboud for a dress once and she presented me with a beautiful costume, complete with headdress and jewelry, thus my collection was begun," Kavar recalls.

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, many Palestinian refugee women sold their precious belongings, which included their best dresses, out of hunger — they needed money to buy food for their families. For many in the camps poverty and hunger became a way of life. I realised, all of a sudden that these dresses were not just beautiful clothes, but a way of life stolen right from under our very eyes, I became determined to buy as many dresses as I could to preserve them from being lost.

I moved to Amman in 1950 when I married Kamel Kavar, and my work with refugees and the Palestinian dress continued in the Hussein and Wajid camps. My mission had only just begun. In the ark of Amman I began buying the few Jordanian dresses I could find, especially those from Salt, Maan and Northern Jordan, but it was difficult because Jordanian women had had no reason to sell their



A bedouin women from Southern Palestine, with her coin decorated veil.

Last Thursday an exhibition entitled "The King Road — Art and Culture of Jordan 9,000 Years," opened in Tokyo, Japan, it was inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, who was accompanied by a delegation of Jordanian officials which included Widad Kavar. The exhibition included 400 pieces of Jordanian artifacts, many of which date back to 9,000 years of antiquity, and 200 costumes from Widad Kavar costume collection as well as 200 pieces of her jewelry collection. It will be on display in Tokyo at the Takashimaya Art Gallery in Tokyo until November 14, 1989, before going on display in three other Japanese cities — Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka. Previously the exhibition was shown in West Germany, Austria and France and is expected to go to Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

dresses, so very few could be found.

It must be noted here that the traditional dresses worn by Palestine village and bedouin women altered in some ways after the dispersion which took place as a result of the 1948 war. Economic conditions, especially for villagers, many of whom found themselves displaced in towns or camps in unoccupied parts of Palestine, were harsh. The hand embroidered cross stitch on the traditional dress was being displaced by less expensive machine embroidered ones. Towards the late 1950's and early 1960's, prosperity returned to many Palestinian families because

their sons, brother and husbands had found good paying jobs in the Arabian Gulf countries. The return of prosperity could be seen in the dresses which again were being hand made and rich in material and embroidery. After 1948 many women had sold their silver jewelry, now they could afford to buy gold.

Cross-stitch embroidery centres meshroomed in many towns and refugee camps at this time with the encouragement and help of Arab women's organisations, cooperatives and UNRWA. Cross stitched embroidered tablecloths, runners, cushions, and accessories were made to meet the demands of

quickly modernising people.

Encouraged by an English anthropologist I began studying our dresses with a more scientific eye and discovered methods of research to expand that what I already knew. I interviewed countless women in Jordan and in the occupied territories about their traditions and dresses. Many of the women I interviewed and dresses I collected came from villages that had been wiped off the face of the earth by the Israelis, like Im-was near Jerusalem and Beit Dajan near Jaffa, others like Ishood and Majdal no longer had any Arab inhabitants.

Like countless of peoples and cultures all over the world before them the Palestinian identity was being threatened with extinction, this became most apparent after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. For Kavar it gave her that final push to collect and document as many dresses and information about them as possible. "Jordan was flooded with a second wave of Palestine refugees more desolate than those before them and in greater need. "Camp life became a reality for many refugees, but even within the camps they would reorganise themselves according to the regions of Palestine from which they originated and thus you had, the Jerusalem section, the Nabulus section, the Jericho section and so on.

Before the Diaspora

Although costumes dating to a time period prior to the 1830-1850, which is the era of the oldest dress in the Kavar collection, are difficult to find because the materials used are usually perishable, a few costumes dating back to 1800 were donated to museums in London, Paris and Vienna by European travellers.

All through history Palestine has been a meeting place of the East and West, many cultures and civilisations have left their mark on many aspects of life in the region, and of course on the dress as well.

Prior to 640 Palestine had been under Byzantine rule and thus they Greeks and Byzantines left their mark, which can be seen in the use of gold thread and the cross stitch which are prominent in the dresses to this day. Islamic geometric patterns have obviously influenced many designs in Palestinian dresses. During the reign of the Ottomans, some Turkish designs infiltrated the existing

designs and the incorporation of the metallic silver thread can still be seen on many embroidered dresses. The division of Palestine into northern and southern "vilayats" also left visible marks on the embroidery as northern Palestine was influenced by Syrian embroidery and the southern province was influenced by designs from Sinai," Kavar says.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century missionaries swamped the Levant and in Palestine opened schools and some vocational centres. Handicrafts were encouraged and new pattern books were introducing new designs and motifs. The Arab village women was, as always open to new ideas of how to make a more beautiful and more innovative dress and quickly began incorporating new designs in her costume. In the dresses of the day one could easily trace German, Eastern European and Scandinavian designs.

During the time of the British mandate the Palestinian traditional dress flourished, most people enjoyed a higher standard of living and this was reflected in the "richness" of the dresses. In many areas silver jewelry already began to be replaced by gold. In some areas embroidered shawls were replaced by Spanish and Japanese (via America) shawls, this was especially noticeable in Ramallah and the Jaffa area.

Kavar's collection she hopes will pay "a special tribute to the women who produced this culture and whose courage, determination and struggle never seem to have let them under all circumstances."

The foreigners who are exposed to the dresses in Jordan, other parts of the Arab World and in the museums in which the collection is being shown around the world, "must begin to appreciate the area in a human and cultural perspective rather than a superpower pawn, an area of conflict, tension and wars," says Kavar.

And for those Jordanians, Palestinians and other Arabs who have been unaware of the "living treasures" amidst which they live, they may realise that they too have mission, for each village and town each desert in Arabia from the Maghreb in the west to the Euphrates in the east and Syria in the north to the Yemen in the south, no two costumes, no two bracelets, necklaces and head-dresses are alike, you have an ocean of splendors and mysteries to explore

OBITUARY

Marina Viets, a former freedom fighter, dies

MARINA LEONARDA WORONIECKA VIETS, 61, holder of the highest Polish medal for valor, died Sept. 25 at Londoun Hospital Center.

Born Dec. 27, 1927, in Kalisz, Poland, she was the daughter of Count Tadeusz and Lilly Larish Woroniecka.

She won the medal of valor for her part as a 17-year-old in the Warsaw uprising.

Her father, a leader of an anti-Nazi movement, was arrested the first day of the German invasion of Poland, and was never seen again. Her brother Siegmund was shot in error by Polish National Army troops as he led a resistance platoon, disguised in enemy uniforms, into Nazi lines during the uprising. Her mother died during the shelling of Warsaw.

Mrs. Viets accompanied her husband, Richard Noyes Viets, at a series of diplomatic posts. He most recently served as U.S. Ambassador in Tanzania and in Jordan.

Most recently, they made their home in the countryside outside Middleburg.

During the Polish National Army battle in Warsaw she won the Virtuti Militari, the equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honour or the British Victoria Cross.

Asked once if she would recognise the rebuilt Warsaw, she told a friend she had never seen the old city. She quite literally fought in the underground. She had come in to take part in the battle by carrying messages through the sewer system and cellars of the demolished capital, and had never seen it whole. Friends have heard resistance movement songs sung in post-war Warsaw cafes praising her deeds.

As the wife of an American diplomatic officer, she particularly enjoyed wearing her Polish National Army Medals at official Polish Communist diplomatic re-

ceptions overseas.

She earned a bachelor of arts in art history and archaeology from the University of London in 1948, and was chief cultural affairs officer in the United States Information Service in Tunis from 1954 to 1958.

Fluent in several languages, she also served as personal interpreter for President Habib Bour-giba.

While in Tokyo, she established a lecture series on art and civilization, and while in New Delhi, she founded the Roosevelt House Art Gallery.

She was proud of the fact that after a 12-year wait she was declared a U.S. citizen by an act of Congress. The bill was introduced by Lyndon Johnson.

While in Tanzania, she founded the Center for the Handicapped in Dar es Salaam. In Amman, Jordan, she originated programmes for handicapped and retarded children.

A patron and friend of many artists, she occasionally painted and worked with many of Jordan's painters.

She studied in a master's degree programme in biblical archaeology at Tel Aviv University, and worked on digs in Libya, Tunisia, Jordan, Syria.

A member of the board of the Jane Goodall Institute in Gombe, Tanzania, a further interest was in wildlife.

From 1972 to 1974, she worked at the National Institute for Mental Health in Washington, D.C.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Noyes Viets; three daughters, Alexandra Anastasia, Katrina Olga, and Marynka Natalia; and Marc Grabowski, her son by her first husband Count Christopher Grabowski.

The family has suggested memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Foundation.

The date of a memorial service will be announced later.

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The powerful logging industry have tried to intimidate ecologists trying to curtail deforestation

Philippines environmental movement: Here to stay

By Jon Miller

MANILA — Maximo Kalaw's eyes light up as he tells of a recent visit to a Manila school to talk about the profound environmental problems facing the Philippines. He recalls how, when he began his presentation, he looked up at his young audience and saw passionate, determined faces.

"The children knew the environment," he says, almost in disbelief. "They knew what causes pollution. And they were very militant! These girls were standing on chairs and saying, 'the government hasn't done this and we want to do it ourselves!'"

So I said, "OK, OK, I'll help you."

Kalaw, whose full name is Maximo T. Kalaw Jr., heads two official Manila-based environmental groups — the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Philippines Institute of Alternative Futures. The scion of a prominent family and a former big-game hunter ("My past is hanging in the wall," laughs the 50-year-old), he is riding the crest of a burgeoning environmental awareness in this country.

Haribon, which was founded as a bird-watching organization in 1972 — its name is a loose native Tagalog translation of "king of the birds," referring to the endangered Philippine eagle — began to turn its attention to the environment in 1984. But Kalaw says that the Philippine environmental movement, although still young, is already on the verge of achieving "that critical mass where it will really make a difference."

From all indications, the movement has come not a moment too soon. From almost any high spot in the Philippines, the causes and effects of an acute environmental crisis are glaringly evident: fishermen use dynamite to kill fish, destroying life-sustaining coral reefs; manufacturers dump hazardous chemicals into fragile water systems, polluting the water supplies of villages downstream; farmers use toxic pesticides that contaminate drinking water, and uses belch diesel smoke that chokes the streets of every city. Meanwhile, the population, now 65 million, is growing at the rate of 2.7 per cent per year.

The main target of the fledgling environmental movement has been the powerful logging industry. The Philippines has been losing its forests at the rate of 105,000 hectares (almost 260,000 acres, or 41 square miles) every year. The loss has reduced the archipelago's forest cover from 75 per cent in the 1950s to 25 per cent in 1988. Although deforestation directly affects upland wildlife and mountain dwellers, it takes its toll on every facet of the ecology.

Each year, monsoon rains fall on the once-wooded hills, washing soil down to the lowlands and the sea. Bringing floods and landslides, displacing lake water and burying crops, the silted water moves like a silent avalanche, leaving a swath of physical, social and economic devastation that threatens to destroy any hope of development in this fertile but unrelentingly poor land.

Not surprisingly, taking on the logging industry has made the environmental movement a favourite target, especially on the sparsely populated island of Palawan, in the western Philippines, where a few politically influential timber barons control nearly all the income generated by the island's once-vast virgin forests.

In 1988 the Haribon Foundation opened a Palawan office and began to publicise the toll the loggers have exacted from the island's ecological and social systems. At the same time it began to criticise government policies that allow the timber industry to be monopolised by a few individuals and it also showed how loggers routinely circumvent laws designed to protect the environment.

The loggers responded by arranging for articles and reports to be suppressed, initiating lawsuits and issuing death threats against environmental activists. Kalaw, who has been threatened repeatedly, says that this sort of harassment is not new. Throughout the Philippines, 120 of the government's own "forest guards," who monitor logging operations, have died under what are described as "mysterious circumstances" in recent years.

Some military and civilian officials have chosen to see the problem of illegal logging as a law-enforcement issue, but Kalaw be-

Drug addiction — an indictment of American culture?

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — "Americans represent only two per cent of the world population but consume 60 per cent of the world's illicit drugs," says Dr. Arnold Washtoo, an expert on addiction. "If that is not an indictment of our culture, I don't know what is."

Washtoo is co-author of a new study that provides some clues to a question rarely touched in the debate over drugs: why do Americans use more drugs than anyone else?

Experts say U.S. per capita consumption of illicit drugs is the world's highest. In addition, millions abuse prescription drugs from tranquillizers to sleeping pills. Alcohol and tobacco, usually excluded from the drug debate, account for an estimated 450,000 deaths a year.

"We are not only talking about cocaine or crack," Washtoo said in an interview. "We are now seeing high school kids who are getting high from typewriter correction fluid. We are becoming a nation of compulsive drug users, a 'chemical people'." The reason is rooted in a society driven by obsessions with perfection, performance, possessions, money and power, according to the study, entitled "willpower's not enough."

At the same time, the support traditionally provided by the extended family or community is breaking down.

In this environment, the study says, people are vulnerable to the temptation of "mood changers" — drugs or compulsive behaviour that make the individual feel good while the effects last and that temporarily meet emotional and social needs the "American way of life" fails to provide.

Additions to the United States go beyond drugs, according to Washtoo. No other country has as many compulsive overeaters (estimated at 40 to 60 million) or gamblers (12 million).

For many Americans, even sex is a compulsion.

Sexual abuse

"For sex addicts, sex is the drug that is used in a never-ending search for relief, distraction, comfort, excitement and a sense of power or other effect having little to do with sex itself," the study says.

Some 60 million Americans, it asserts, are sexually abused by the time they reach 18. Reports of sexual abuse have shot up from 6,000 in 1976 to 200,000 last year.

"It is a form of collective insanity to believe that if all illicit drugs were somehow removed from this country, we would become a society of noncompulsive, life-embracing people," said Washtoo, director of the Washington Institute on Addictions in New York and founder of the first national cocaine hotline.

"He fact that so many other types of compulsive behaviour are springing up testifies to the fallacy of that belief."

Many drug experts view with scepticism sociological explanations for a drug epidemic which has turned parts of major cities into virtual war zones and costs an estimated \$200 billion a year in lost productivity, medical care and crime.

"I don't think it is correct to say that America is a continuously addictive society," said Dr. David Musto of Yale University, a leading authority on the history of drug use in the United States. "At various times, we have gone from being tremendous consumers of drugs to using almost no drugs whatsoever."

The pendulum has swung from one extreme to the other in periods of 70 to 80 years, Musto said, recalling that President William Taft spoke in 1910 of "a most fearful epidemic of cocaine." Fifteen years later, the epidemic had run its course.

There is no sign that the present epidemic is near its peak.

Anti-narcotics officials say that crack, an extremely addictive, smokable form of cocaine, is fast spreading from urban slums to the middle class and from cities to the countryside.

Many Americans, including law enforcement officers, share an uneasy feeling that their way of life contributes to the problem.

"There is not one single answer," said a senior official of the drug enforcement administration, "but one of the root causes is in the family."

"Millions of kids are left to themselves. Among the poor, single-parent families often just don't function. Among the middle class, mom and dad are often too

busy with their careers to spare time for the children."

Latchkey children

A recent study of 5,000 teenage schoolchildren in California found that "latchkey children" caring for themselves after school were twice as likely to use alcohol and 1.7 times as likely to use marijuana as adolescents who grow up under more direct adult care.

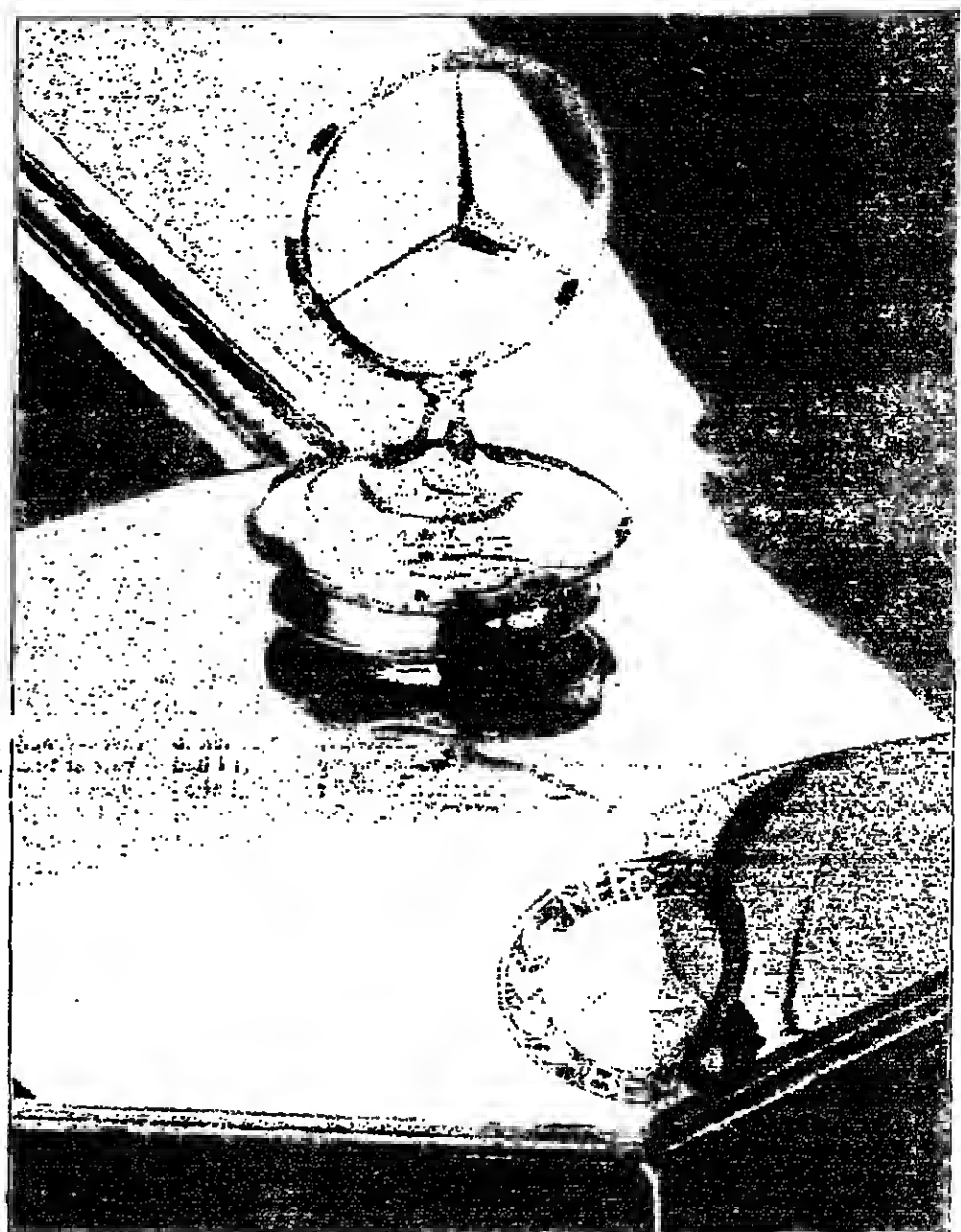
The study found the smallest number of latchkey children among Hispanic families, where grandparents, aunts or cousins take over when parents have to work.

Latin Americans cite traditional values and the safety net of the extended family as reasons why drug addiction in their countries is minimal compared with the United States.

Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia — which produce almost all the cocaine used in the United States — have virtually no cocaine problem except among abandoned street children whose number is minute compared with an estimated six million American cocaine users.

While there is no unanimity on the reasons for the American penchant for drugs, most experts agree that the war on drugs has so far failed to stem the flood.

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African writer — jailed at home, exiled abroad

By Ngugi wa Thiong'o

I HAD COME to Britain to promote the English translation of my novel, *Devil on the Cross*, originally written in Gikuyu at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in Kenya in 1978. Heinemann, my publishers, had put me up at the Russell Hotel so that I could be near their offices at Bedford Square and to the press. But the book that first caught my eye on entering a London bookshop was a slim volume titled *Writers in Exile*, by Andrew Gurr. I was surprised, on leafing through it, to find myself in the company of Katherine Mansfield from New Zealand and V.S. Naipaul from Trinidad, as those modern writers who had followed the path set by the Irish writer, James Joyce: that of flight to the metropolis of a foreign country. You remember the position of Joyce's hero in *A Portrait of The Artist As A Young Man*?

I will tell you what I will do and what I will not do. I will not serve that in which I no longer believe, whether it call itself my home, my fatherland or my church; and I will try to express myself in some mode of life or art as freely as I can and as wholly as I can, using for my defence the only arms I allow myself to use — silence, exile and cunning.

Home, fatherland, motherland, exile? I, a writer in exile? I had just arrived in Britain on June 8, firmly intending to leave for Kenya on July 31. In my book, *Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary*, published the same year as Andrew Gurr's *Writers in Exile*, I had rejected the option of exile into which the Kenya government had been trying to force me by denying me jobs, virtually banning me from the premises of schools and colleges. I was even feeling not a little pleased with myself for having confirmed the date and the flight of my return home. I was not going to be one of James Joyce's heroes, obeying only the laws of my imagination on the banks of the Thames or Seine, or in a new Bloomsbury around Bedford Square.

I took time off from the busy schedule of interviews and talks to visit the late C.L.R. James at his place in Raiton Road, Brixton. I had first met him in Makerere University in 1969 where I then held a one-year fellowship in creative writing. He was on a brief visit.

We readily found common ground in our interest in Caribbean literature and Pan-Africanist politics. And now, in 1982, James readily recalled our conversations in Makerere, particularly about his old comrade-in-Pan-Africanism, the late Jomo Kenyatta, about whom James did not always have the most endearing of things to say.

Petals of Blood

I had fallen out with the Kenyatta regime in 1969 over the suppression of academic freedom at the University of Nairobi and I had resigned in protest. In 1977 Kenyatta had imprisoned me for my activities to community theatre at Limuru, in Kenya, although some other people argue that it was my novel, *Petals of Blood*, which had really angered the regime.

I briefed James about the intensified repression under the new Moi regime. I told him about the recent wave of arrests which had led to the detention without trial of a number of intellectuals, including Al Amin Mazrui, a Kenyan playwright. "And you are still intending to go back on July 31?" he asked, slightly raising his frail body from the bed. "They will kill you in six months, the way they did Walter Rodney." I would go home, I insisted. On parting he gave me one of his books with the inscription: "For Ngugi. Please stay for a while at least. Today we here need you." The book was a critical evaluation of Melville's *Moby Dick*, a novel we used to read as an exam text in Kenya in the Fifties.

On arrival in my hotel, I found an urgent coded message from Kenya: "A red carpet awaits you at Jomo Kenyatta airport able to confirm the message: I was due for arrest and another detention without trial, or worse... It took a while to the reality behind the message to sink in. I could not accept the fact of exile, or the pleasures of exile as George Lamming once described it in a book. And even after I had cancelled my return and progressively descended from my residency in the Russell Hotel to a wanderer in London in search of a place in which to live, I could not bring myself to use the word 'exile' in reference to myself.

"SHIPWRECKED" was the word I often used, perhaps remembering James's mariners, refugees, and castaways. But the fact is that I was now living the reality of the modern writer in Africa.

Such a writer was born in captivity in more ways than one. The 20th-century African literature, particularly that in European languages, has roots in 19th-century

slave narratives by the likes of Olaudah Equiano. In his autobiography, *The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, The African*, he wrote of the Africa of his childhood as consisting of nations of dancers, musicians and poets, very much in terms that would later become the central themes of the Negritude writers of the Thirties and Forties. But while Equiano's prison-house was the entire landscape outside Africa, for many writers their prison-house is inside their countries.

The 20th century has seen many an African writer confined by the colonial and neocolonial state to corridors of silence. Thus British Kenya saw many of the militant Mau Mau in jails and detention camps in the Fifties; apartheid South Africa has at various times jailed writers like Dennis Brutus, Cessie Makiwiri, and the late Alex La Guma; independent Kenya imprisoned writers like Abdulla Abdulla and Al Amin Mazrui; Egypt ensured a taste of prison for such writers as Sherif Hetata and Nawal el Saadawi; Kofi Awoonor from Ghana has also had a prison experience; and currently Jack Mapanje of Malawi is languishing in prison. And there have been classic cases of writers like Gakaara Wanjau of Kenya, who were jailed by both the colonial and neocolonial authorities for their writing.

These are only a few representative examples from east, west, south, and north Africa. These prison graduates have produced a literature born of their experiences in the corridors of silence. It is telling that the first African recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka, is himself a prison graduate, having spent three years in various jails in Nigeria, the land from which Equiano had been abducted in the 18th century. Thus, just as there is a tradition of slave narratives, there is in the 20th century a whole tradition of prison literature from Africa.

Unfortunately a few other writers never survived their prison-houses to tell the tale. Idi Amin's Uganda had a number of writers killed, just as in South Africa today. Which of the two would have been my fate — prison or death — had I returned to Moi's Kenya, I am not too keen to know.

I had spent a year in a maximum security prison in 1977-78 and I know how much of a waste of human life prison is, especially in Kenya where the jailing of intellectuals has been a punitive measure. Perhaps James was right but I don't want to try to prove him wrong.

What finally convinced me about the truth of the messages of a red-carpet welcome in 1982 by President Moi at Jomo Kenyatta airport was the flight into exile of two writers, Kimani Gecan and Ngugi wa Mirii. I had worked

with both at the community theatre in Limuru in Kenya. They had been only one or two steps ahead of Moi's agents. Kimani and Ngugi had become part of the community of African writers in exile.

Expatriate literature

I am here talking about physical exile. There have been two types of writers in exile from Africa. There are the voluntary exiles, those forced to live abroad through choice or through circumstances other than threats of prison or death. These are the ones who are comparable to the expatriate writer of the James Joyce or Hemingway tradition, or that of the Bloomsbury circle of Katherine Mansfield.

In the Twenties and Thirties, the group of African students who lived in Paris produced a literature that later acquired the semblance of a distinctive movement under the name Negritude. Sedar Senghor, later the president of Senegal, was one of the leading lights of this expatriate type of literature.

The second category is that of those writers forced into exile through fear of certain death or prison or both. These are victims of state terror and they are in flight for their lives. They belong to the category of B. Brecht and others who fled Nazi Germany. From them there has not been any distinctive literary movement, I suppose because they do not always come from similar circumstances.

Nevertheless physical exile has been part and parcel of 20th-century African literature. Beginning with Peter Abrahams, South Africa has contributed most to this category. Home And Exile is the title of a book by another South African writer, Lewis Nkosi, and it very well captures the underlying themes and contradictions in modern African literature.

Home? Even after I had accepted that I had been shipwrecked on an island called Great Britain, I could never bring myself to unpack the bags I had kept ready for my return to Kenya.

Novels of return

Then in 1983/84 I wrote *Matigari*, a novel of return, in the Gikuyu language, and I felt a sense of belonging such as I had felt when in 1978 at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in Cell No. 16, I had written *Caitani Mutharabaini* (*Devil on the Cross*) as an attempt to reconnect myself to the community from which I had been so brutally cut by the neocolonial regime in Kenya. Now I had done the same thing and experienced not too dissimilar emotions. Was there a connection between prison and exile?

In both cases the writer is keenly aware of his loss of freedom. He is haunted by a tremendous longing for a connection. Exile can even be worse

than prison. Some people have been known to survive prison in their own countries better than "freedom" in physical exile.

But there is another sense, a larger sense, in which we can talk of exile in African literature. The writers who emerged after the second world war were nearly all the products of universities at home and abroad. Some of these universities like Ibadan in Nigeria, Makerere in Uganda, Achimota in Ghana had been set up to manufacture an elite that could later make a good partnership with the British ruling circles. The curriculum reflected little or nothing of the local surroundings.

The situation was quite ironic. Many of the educated Africans had been sent to the higher seats of learning by their peasant communities so they could come back and help in the collective survival. But at the end of the educational pipeline, these select few had more in common with the very social forces which kept their communities down in the first place. In colonial times they would probably have joined the state administration as junior partners, but with the hope that a little bit more would fall to them from the master's table. In neocolonial times — that is, after independence — they joined the multinationals whose profits depended on the misery of the very people who had sent them out to bring back their share.

Writers were part of the educated elite, and there was no way they could escape from these contradictions. For instance, they nearly all opted for European languages as the means of their creative output. Thus English, French, and Portuguese became the languages of the new African literature. But these languages were spoken by only about 5 per cent of the population. The African Prometheus had been sent to wrest fire from the gods, but instead became a captive contented with warming himself at the fireside of the gods. Otherwise he carried the fire in containers that were completely sealed and for which the majority had not key. For whom were they writing?

I was a student at Leeds University in the mid-Sixties when I first strongly felt a sense of despair at that contradiction in my situation as a writer. I had just published a *Grain of Wheat*, a novel that dealt with the Kenya people's struggle for independence. But the very people about whom I was writing were never going to read the novel or have it read for them. I had carefully sealed their lives in a linguistic case. Thus whether I was based in Kenya or outside my opting for English had already marked me as a writer in exile. Perhaps Andrew Gurr had been right after all. The African writer is already set aside from people by his education and language choice.

The situation of the writer in 20th-century Africa mirrors that of the larger society. For if the writer has been in a state of exile — whether it is physical or spiritual — the people themselves have been in exile in relationship to their economic and political landscape.

During the colonial era, the African people were dispossessed of their land and labour and mind. The colonial power took on the form of an inaccessible god, set on dismembering a people and a continent. The remnant of this Africa can still be seen in South Africa.

Linguistic colonials

Independence did not always result in the empowerment of the people. Economic power still lay in the hands of multinationals, and political power in the hands of a tiny elite exercising it on behalf of the dominant interests of the West. This elite, pampered with military gadgets of all kinds with which to rein in a restive population, has often turned an entire country into a vast prison-house. Africa is a continent alienated from itself by years of alien conquests and internal despots. Thus the state of exile in the literary landscape reflects a larger state of alienation in the society as a whole, a clear case of colonial legacy which has left scars on the body, heart, and mind of the continent. *The Man Died*; *Things Fall Apart*; *No Longer At Ease*; *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*; *From A Crooked Rib*: the titles of many novels in Africa speak clearly of this alienation, or this dismemberment of parts that could have made a whole.

Is African literature capable of a successful homecoming? It has already gone through at least three phases within the last three or four decades. In the Fifties its sentiments — *Tell Freedom* — were largely in harmony with the general sentiments for independence. The Sixties, the era of coups d'etat, gave birth to a literature of disillusionment. Attacks and lamentation were the key tones in this literature. The Seventies and the Eighties saw some writers seeking to find a way out of the earlier despair by trying to connect the works of the imagination with the struggles of the people for social change and social justice. But their search for a way back among the people was hampered by the very linguistic



Ngugi wa Thiong'o has lived in exile from his native Kenya since mid-1982. He was held in detention without trial in Kenya throughout 1978 after a performance of his play, *Ngũgĩka Ndereenda* (*I Will Marry When I Want*). Its theme is that those who

had fought hardest for independence had gained least, a theme to which he returns in his new novel, *Matigari*, published earlier this year by Heinemann.

prison they had been thrown into by their colonial legacy.

The Nineties will see more and more writers trying to break out of the linguistic prison to seek their genuine roots in the languages and rhythms of life of the dispossessed majority.

Only in this way will African literature find its real home-

coming among the African masses who have always struggled to overcome the state of alienation. Otherwise it is doomed to die, or stagnate in the linguistic prison of its colonial legacy.

The nightmare of the latter half of the 20th century is the fear that a human creation, the Bomb, has come to threaten the very exist-

ence of the human race, and indeed all life. A universal sense of exile, of not really belonging, still haunts humankind.

In its search for a genuine homecoming, African literature will truly reflect the universal struggle for a world which truly belongs to us all — *The Guardian*.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1989

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) Brighten your home with new furnishings and flowers and take your household to meet as many neighbors and relatives as possible.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) A business deal will bring to you a new proposition that has great potential. Get your household now to go along with your clever business idea.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Accept the chance now to see considerably more of your good friends. You will have two worthwhile business matters now able to put in effect and succeed.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Friendly discussions with a younger person will show you how to add to your assets. You yourself now need more expert data to do a better job at your business.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Bright and brilliant friends can bolster your spirits very much today. Invite dynamic friends you are sure that you can handle into your home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) There will be so much activity in your home that you will need to be alert to accept it. An influential couple should now become your friends.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Accept business ideas different

from those you have always used. Be polite to a very strange couple who comes into your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is necessary for you to have more breadth of scope to make headway in money matters. Discuss important problems with your attachment but put off making joint decisions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Stick to pleasure with younger and generous friends now. Keep conditions happy and lively at your dwelling place. You and your attachment steer clear of a jealous admirer who would cause trouble.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18) Don't fight with a good friend over the performance of some work. Many private meetings are the answer to your many business problems.

AQUARIUS: (January 19 to February 17) Don't let outspoken friends and acquaintances now hurt your feelings. Rise about it. Arguments at home should not be permitted to occur or real tension could arise.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 19) Now you will need to curb a tendency to be extravagant. Spending more time at home now enhances the harmony there. Let your attachment be more aware of your affections, true devotion.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1989

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) Your home is your most important place of action today. You have still not been able to get of on that trip that means so much to you.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) You will have a very accurate hunch just what to do about a property matter. Take an especially nice present to your home for your family.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Take the initiative in contacting friends you have not seen for a while. You will need to exercise much effort to be a true partner to your attachment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) To keep your good friends you will need to spend more money on them. Listen to really understand members of your household's point of view.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a great day for you and your friends. The time to go to see neighbors, relatives, close personal or business companions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A loyal man friend will help you with an important recreational matter. Three highly unusual persons will come into your home today.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Don't hesitate in getting matters accomplished at home continue for a little while longer. A suggestion coming from a distance will aid your financial affairs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Gain the good will of your family by being frank with them about business and money. Listen to a friend who is an expert and can show you how to better handle your obligations.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) You will be very sensitive to all home conditions but don't show it. Allow friends to take time away from your business responsibilities.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18) Your daily duties should sparkle with ingenuity at this time. Many conferences will bring out your best business opportunities.

AQUARIUS: (January 19 to February 17) Unique investments will be your best source for more money now. Do your job so that you do not miss any opportunity that is connected with your work.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 19) Don't take friends advice now on how to handle your own intimate affairs. A little more emotion towards your attachment would be well received.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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MAKING WRONG INTO RIGHT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 10 9
 ♥ 6 5 2
 ♦ K 5 4
 ♣ K J 5

WEST
 ♠ 6 5 4 2
 ♥ Q J 10 7 3
 ♦ 9 6 4
 ♣ Q 8

EAST
 ♠ 8 7
 ♥ 7 8 4
 ♦ A J 10 7
 ♣ 9 7 6 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 3
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ Q 8 3 2
 ♣ A 10 4 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

For years, we've been trying to convince you to go with the odds.

After this hand, you'll probably never again believe anything we tell you.

North might have tried to find a 4-4 spade fit. However, with no ruffing value in his hand, he chose instead to make the value bid of three no trump, a decision which we endorse wholeheartedly.

West led the queen of hearts, attacking declarer's weak spot. It did not take a genius to see that declarer

would have to take nine tricks without giving up the lead. And to accomplish that declarer would need to bring in the club suit without loss—if he surrendered a trick to the queen, the defenders would be able to take at least three heart tricks as well as the ace of diamonds.

If clubs were 3-2, declarer would have a straight guess as to which defender held the queen. So to learn more about the hand, declarer cashed three rounds of spades, ending in hand. On the last of these East discarded a diamond.

Since West probably had long hearts for his opening lead, in addition to four spades, he had to be short in clubs. Therefore, East was a favorite to hold the queen of clubs.

But if East held at least four clubs to the queen, there was no way declarer could collect four club tricks. East could hold declarer to three by simply covering the jack of clubs when it was led!

This was the time for a desperation play that had a chance of defeating the contract. Declarer went against the odds by leading a low club to the jack. When that won, he cashed dummy's remaining spade and then took three more club tricks for his contract. Well played!

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS

1 Denude

6 Source

10 Buttrass

14 Dimerware

15 Light color

17 Ordinary

17 Fortification

18 Dessert

20 Lime drink

21 History Muse

22 Adorn

24 Dessert

26 TV role for

27 Dennis or

27 Examples

28 Divides

38 Wiles

38 Charlotte

39 Follower of

40 Spud

42 Boring

43 Weapon

44 Employ

44 Marsh bird

45 Plain people

47 Sum up

49 Din

51 Portnoy's

57 Ice sheet

58 Truck

62 Dessert

64 Gown

66 Scribe

67 Ice sheet

68 Fr. river

69 Slatton

70 Desires

71 Terminated

DOWN

1 Dismantle

2 Dismantle

3 Horseman

4 Once - while

5 Crisp

6 Narate

7 Cancun

8 Elite

9 Jet or prop

10 Accounting

11 Mature

12 Of some

13 Glimpse

14 Lets out

15 Is stationary

16 Eating tool

17 Small lake

18 Deadly

19 Drug one

20 Comfort

21 Arrange type

22 Incite

23 Stockings

24 Planist

25 Temptation

26 Foal

27 Painting

28 Style

29 Regular

30 Craft

31 Ruin

46 Dessert

48 Stop

50 Stage

51 Whippers

52 Chewy candy

54 Egg-shaped

55 Mother-of-pearl

56 Signed

57 No bid

58 Organic

59 Compound

60 Soviet police

61 Diving bird

63 Arena cheer

65 Elys of TV

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1 ABLE

2 ABLE

3 ABLE

4 ABLE

5 ABLE

6 ABLE

7 ABLE

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Ortega announces end to ceasefire

MANAGUA (Agencies) — President Daniel Ortega Wednesday ended his Sandinista government's 19-month truce with the contra rebels, blaming recent attacks by the U.S.-backed guerrillas.

Ortega told a news conference that U.S. President George Bush was in part responsible because he was "supporting terrorism in Nicaragua."

But in suspending the truce, Ortega was inviting renewed U.S. military aid to the contras.

Ortega started a meeting of hemispheric heads of state in Costa Rica last Friday by announcing he would not renew the ceasefire as the government has done monthly. He has since been softening his stance.

By going through with the threat, he could trigger international condemnation and loss of support of Western European friends, who is the past have defied U.S. pressure and aided Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Bush said Tuesday he would review U.S. policy towards Nicaragua if Ortega ended the ceasefire.

In a broadcast on a national radio, Ortega said Nicaragua had made every effort for peace. "But the U.S. government insists on a policy of war against Nicaragua."

"We cannot continue being tolerant. We are not going to prove the ceasefire," he said.

"We have a responsibility to protect the lives of Nicaraguans. We cannot permit that crimes continue to be committed against the Nicaraguan people," Ortega said.

Bush, asked before Wednesday's announcement if he was prepared to seek a resumption of military aid to the rebels if Managua ended the truce, said: "I would re-evaluate the situation in a minute if this ceasefire is broken."

The United States cut military aid to the contras in February 1988 but have continued humanitarian aid.

The Nicaraguan military says the contras have sharply increased attacks recently, killing 44 people in the past 10 days.

On Tuesday, Ortega and other ministers travelled to a farming cooperative near San Miguelito, some 160 kilometres southeast of Managua, where four peasants were killed in a contra attack.

Ortega says the attacks are endangering the campaign for

general elections next February.

His decision to suspend the ceasefire came despite pleas from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Latin American leaders to extend it again.

Central American leaders have said renewed all-out fighting would be a blow to regional peace efforts.

Since the U.S.-trained contras launched their first offensive in 1983, some 40,000 Nicaraguans have been killed.

Central American presidents agreed in August on a plan to disband the contras by Dec. 5 but there is little sign that the deadline will be met.

Ortega accuses Washington of obstructing the plan.

The contras were forced to the negotiating table with the Sandinistas after the U.S. Congress refused to renew weapons and ammunition supplies to the contras in February 1988.

A month later, the contras and Sandinistas signed a temporary ceasefire which the Sandinistas have renewed on a monthly basis. Talks to turn the agreement into a lasting peace broke down in September 1988.

About 11,000 contras have since withdrawn to base camps in jungles across the border in Honduras.



QUAKE DAMAGE... Residents of the Algerian town of Al Nador survey the damage caused Monday's twin earthquakes which killed at least 30 people

Bhutto survives challenge

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto narrowly survived an opposition no-confidence vote Wednesday that could have toppled her government.

The combined opposition mustered 107 votes in the 237-seat National Assembly, 12 short of the 119 it needed for victory against the Muslim World's only woman prime minister.

The result was greeted with cheers from the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

"I thank the house for once more reposing confidence in me," Bhutto said. "It will be the solemn duty of myself and the democratic government to live up to the expectations and aspirations of the people."

Opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, accepting defeat, said: "We bow to the decision of this august house."

Jatoi, who has accused the Bhutto government of abducting opposition supporters and trying to bribe them, said: "If all members had been present it would have been different."

He launched the debate by accusing Bhutto of leading Pakistan towards fascism and said she presided over massive corruption, mismanagement and a breakdown in law and order.

"This process must be stopped now or we will be heading towards the worst form of new fascism," he said.

On Tuesday, the former ruling party politician said there was nothing to prevent the opposition bringing as many no-confidence motions as it wanted.

Bhutto told the National Assembly: "I appeal to the opposition not to oppose us for the sake of opposition. We all have a stake in this house."

The prime minister, who is expecting her second child, robustly defended her government against opposition accusations and challenged them to take her to court if they believed her guilty of corruption.

She was the only speaker on the government side in the debate and appeared confident with her mother, Nusrat, at her side.

"I came to power with the support of the people and I will remain in office so long as the support is there," she said.

The vote came a week of high political tension and apparently secures the immediate future of Bhutto's 11-month-old government.

Both the government and opposition accused each other of using underhand and illegal tactics to make sure their supporters did not defect.

The modernistic white parliament building in Islamabad was ringed with police and soldiers before the debate and only those with special passes were allowed in.

Bhutto told the British Broadcasting Corporation Tuesday she planned to reshuffle her cabinet if she survived the no-confidence vote.

She has been widely criticised for doing little but battle with the opposition since coming to power and for surrounding herself with weak ministers and advisers.

Analysts said the vote gave Bhutto a good opportunity to clear out some of the dead wood and reward supporters who helped her minority government survive.

U.N. asks S. Africa to repeal Namibia legislation

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday telling South Africa to repeal racial segregation laws in Namibia that could "inhibit the holding of free and fair elections."

Namibians begin voting next Tuesday for a constituent assembly that will draft a constitution and organise the first independent, black majority-ruled government in the territory of 1.3 million.

South Africa has ruled Namibia, a former German colony. The resolution demands the repeal of "such remaining restrictive and discriminatory laws and regulations as inhibit the holding of free and fair elections."

It also endorses Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's opinion that Namibian law AG8, which establishes a racially segregated society, should be repealed.

"We have taken note of the council's concerns and we will look and see if we cannot find a better solution to it. What is important is that this resolution does give one time to re-examine the situation," said South African Ambassador Jeremy Shearer.

Western diplomats said the Third World nations were trying to mount an eleventh-hour campaign to boost the electoral chances of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

If SWAPO wins two-thirds of the votes, it will be able to unilaterally write the constitution and organise any form of government it chooses.

The resolution "demands immediate, full and strict compliance by all parties concerned, in particular South Africa," in implementing the U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for Namibia's independence.

COLUMN

Marriage makes comeback in France

PARIS (R) — For the first time in nearly two decades, marriage is making a comeback in France. After years of decline, weddings showed a 2.2 per cent uptick last year, with 6,000 more couples exchanging rings in 1988 than in the previous year. The national Insee statistics office said this week. But the number of weddings last year — 271,124 — was still well below the 400,000 registered in 1972, the last good year for marriage. Insee added. And French men and women are taking the lifelong decision later. In the early 1970s the average bridegroom and bride were aged 24 and 22 respectively. Last year the average newly-weds were 27 and 25 years old.

Egg-throwing no yoke, say police

ROTORUA, New Zealand (AP) — An Egg-throwing contest got out of hand when bystanders joined in the fun and started shelling each other with stolen eggs, police and other officials said. Firefighters had to hose down the crowd to dampen their enthusiasm about joining in the annual frolic, held Saturday to raise money for charity at the nearby North Island town of Ngongotaha. People watching the egg-throwing contest became part of the action when children began hurling eggs at them, said Mike Lepper, organiser of the Ngongotaha town and country festival. Adults joined the children, who Lepper said had stolen dozens of eggs from a nearby grocery store to add to their arsenal. At the height of the melee, more than 200 people were firing eggs at each other, shop windows, and police and ambulance personnel. Lepper expressed disgust at the display. "It marred a brilliant day," he said. The crowd ignored pleas over a loudspeaker to stop the binge and repeated warnings that the fire department would turn its hose on if they didn't stop. "We had to use water to cool them down and gain control," Lepper said. "The kids thought it was a big joke and began pelting the fire brigade with eggs." The crowd dispersed after about 10 minutes.

Turner's Ten Commandments

ATLANTA (AP) — Media mogul Ted Turner has taken it on himself to release his own version of the Ten Commandments, which he called his "ten voluntary initiatives" in a speech to the national newspaper association: 1. I love and respect the planet Earth, and all living things thereon, especially my fellow species, version of the Ten Commandments, persons everywhere with dignity and respect. 2. I promise to have no more than two children, or no more than my nation suggests. 3. I promise to use my best efforts to save what's left of our natural world. 5. I pledge to use as little non-renewable resources as possible. 6. I pledge to use as little toxic chemicals, pesticides and other poisons as possible. 7. I promise to contribute to those less fortunate than myself, to help them become self-sufficient and enjoy the benefits of a decent life. 8. I reject the use of force, particularly military force. 9. I support the total elimination of all chemical, nuclear and biological weapons. 10. I support the United Nations and its effort to collectively improve the condition of the planet.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	11	12	16	61	Rain		
ATHENS	15	22	24	75	Clear		
BATON ROUGE	24	78	84	88	Clear		
BANGKOK	24	78	84	88	Clear		
Buenos Aires	15	59	26	78	Cloudy		
CAIRO	18	61	21	70	Clear		
CHICAGO	12	54	24	74	Rain		
COPENHAGEN	10	50	14	57	Cloudy		
FRANKFURT	11	52	18	58	Rain		
GENEVA	09	48	15	58	Rain		
HONG KONG	24	78	27	81	Clear		
ISTANBUL	11	52	19	66	Clear		
LONDON	12	55	18	64	Clear		
LOS ANGELES	11	63	21	70	Clear		
MADRID	07	45	21	70	Clear		
MECCA	29	84	33	91	Cloudy		
MOSCOW	09	48	20	68	Clear		
MONTREAL	14	54	21	45	Cloudy		
MUMBAI	24	78	27	81	Clear		
NEW DELHI	14	54	21	45	Cloudy		
NEW YORK	14	54	21	45	Cloudy		
PARIS	12	55	18	64	Clear		
ROME	09	48	15	58	Clear		
SEATTLE	13	55	25	77	Clear		
TOKYO	11	52	21	70	Clear		
VIENNA	13	56	19	66	Rain		

M - indicates missing information.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

France conducts nuclear test

WELLINGTON (AP) — France exploded a 20-kiloton nuclear device Wednesday at its underground test site on Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific, New Zealand scientists said. The blast, equivalent to 20,000 tons of dynamite, was the sixth this year in French Polynesia and the second in what appears to be a series of four, said Warwick Smith of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

34 killed in Sri Lankan violence

COLOMBO (AP) — Government commandos killed 16 suspected Sinhalese extremists and captured arms and ammunition in two weeks of raids in central Sri Lanka, military officials said Wednesday. Eighteen other people were killed Tuesday in the violence between extremists among the island's ethnic Sinhalese majority and the government, other officials said. The military officials said an army commando group raided three villages in the Kandy district, about 90 kilometres northeast of Colombo in a 14-day operation that ended Tuesday. Speaking on condition of anonymity, they said 24 suspected members of an extremist group fighting to overthrow the government were arrested during the sweep in Gampola, Pussellawa and Kotmale. Meanwhile, government officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity, accused the extremists of killing at least 12 people in central and southern Sri Lanka's Sinhalese heartland. In addition, the bodies of six suspected extremists radicals or their supporters were found Tuesday in the Sinhalese heartland, including two in Colombo.

Phnom Penh admits loss of Pailin

BANGKOK (AP) — The Thai newspaper reported Wednesday that Cambodia's defence minister admitted Khmer Rouge guerrillas had captured the western town of Pailin and said the city of Battambang was under martial law. If the report were true, it would be the first official acknowledgment by the Cambodian government of the loss of Pailin, a strategic gem-rich town close to the Thai border. The Khmer Rouge has claimed it captured Pailin on Oct. 22 and called the victory its most important since 1978, when Vietnam invaded Cambodia and ousted the Khmer Rouge from power, beginning the country's latest round of civil war. In an interview with the Nation newspaper in Phnom Penh, Minister Tea Banh said government forces had retreated from Pailin when Khmer Rouge guerrillas stormed their positions after three days of heavy shelling.

Jackson's half brother charged

CHICAGO (AP) — Jesse Jackson's half brother, accused of skimming restaurant profits and hiring gang members to kill a former employee, was denied bail after prosecutors argued he might try to kill or intimidate witnesses. Jackson, a U.S. civil rights leader and former Democratic presidential candidate, is not connected with any of the alleged criminal activities. U.S. Magistrate Elaine Buckle ordered 47-year-old Noah Robinson jailed for trial. Robinson and Jackson, have the same father. But they have not been close and Jackson was quoted in 1987 as saying he has no connection with Robinson. Robinson is accused of offering \$10,000 for the 1986 slaying of Leroy "Hambone" Barber in Greenville, South Carolina. Robinson and five associates also are accused of diverting \$650,000 from three Wendy's restaurants they operated.

'No link between smoking, breast cancer'

WASHINGTON (R) — There appears to be no basis for the theory that smoking by teenage girls reduces the risk of breast cancer later in life, scientists said Tuesday. A major new study of women aged 30-55 found no statistical link whatever between smoking and the risk of breast cancer, Harvard University researchers found. The study was published in Wednesday's journal of the national cancer institute.

Rushdie paperback is on its way

NEW YORK (R) — Paperback editions of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" are expected to go on sale early next year, but a mail-order company has quietly begun to ship budget versions of the book. Publishing officials had feared a paperback edition could spark a resurgence of the violent controversy that surrounded the book's appearance. A spokeswoman for Book-of-the-Month club told Reuters on Tuesday that the Quality Paperback Book Club, a subsidiary, had been selling softcover editions of the novel since early September. The club, which sells books to members only through the mail, said it would not provide sales figures.

Reward offered in jabbing attacks

NEW YORK (AP) — A series of attacks on women on New York's Upper West side by groups of teenage girls using needles or other sharp objects were racially motivated, a police commander said Tuesday. From Oct. 21 to Oct. 27, 28 women, all but one of them white, were jabbed from behind with a sharp object. Their attackers were described as black girls and women between the ages of 12 and 19.



Thorvald Stoltenberg

Stoltenberg emerges as UNHCR favourite

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg has emerged as the prime candidate as U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has held two days of consultations with the chairmen of the U.N.'s regional groups on Monday and Tuesday, and Stoltenberg has emerged as the only candidate for the post, officials said, requesting anonymity.

The high commissioner for refugees is responsible for over 12 million refugees worldwide, including five million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, more than one million in the Horn of Africa, a million in southern Africa, and several hundred thousand in South-East Asia and Central America.

The former high commissioner, Jean-Pierre Hocke, resigned last week. The United Nations is investigating Hocke's handling of an educational fund for refugees. Hocke, of Switzerland, had admitted using the funds to upgrade airplane flights, but denied that he misused U.N. funds.

Denmark played a key role in Hocke's downfall by questioning his use of the educational fund, and Monday, Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen conveyed the Nordic nations' support for Stoltenberg.

Gandhi in deep election trouble

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party are in deep trouble as they go into the last weeks of an election campaign against an apparently united opposition, India's leading opinion pollster said Wednesday.

"The opposition has got its act together, which is an incredible surprise. It's still weak and neck, but only the opposition can improve its position," Prannoy Roy said.

"Rajiv is in deep trouble," he said in an interview as the two sides plunged into campaigning for the Nov. 22, 24 and 26 elections.

He said deals by the normally fragmented opposition to put up single candidates against Congress in most of the 545 seats at stake had given it some credit.

300 arrested in 'Devil's Night' crackdown

DETROIT (AP) — Firefighters scrambled from blaze to blaze and police jailed 165 juveniles who ignored a curfew imposed for Devil's Night, the three-day Halloween tradition of setting fires in this industrial city.

Dozens of blazes flared in trash bins and abandoned buildings, and at least five homes burned Monday night. No one was injured.

By the end of the night, the number of fires had already surpassed the 229 set last year, said city councilman Mel Ravitz.

"We've got to find a way to either re-educate or incarcerate those who engage in this sport," he said.

Halloween, a descendant of the holiday All Hallows' Eve, is celebrated in most of the United

States on Oct. 31 by children who dress as witches, ghosts and other creatures and go door-to-door through their neighbourhoods, collecting candy.

However, the holiday also has a darker side: a tradition of "trick or treat" in which children play tricks on those who do not offer candy. In Detroit, a city suffering from high teenage unemployment and dropout rates, vandalism has eclipsed the friendly aspects of the holiday.

Police and firefighters refused to release a count of the number of blazes since Devil's Night began Sunday.

Police arrested 165 youths Monday, bringing the number of juveniles arrested since the 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew went into effect to 334, said police spokesman Christopher Buck.

Four of those arrested are under investigation for arson, police said.

During curfew, police are allowed to detain children under age 18 overnight if they are caught on the streets without a parent.

Devil's Night is a decades-old tradition, but youths went from soaping windows to arson about 10 years ago.

The blazes apparently peaked in 1984, when firefighters battled 808 blazes in the last three days of October. The number of fires has declined steadily since then.

Penny Thomas blamed Devil's Night revellers for a blaze that flared in an abandoned house next door and destroyed her home Monday night.

man Christopher Buck.

He said a sudden rise in food prices over the last few months and charges that officials took bribes in a \$1.3 billion arms deal could be critical factors in deciding the result.

"Corruption is a very big issue in the urban centres. Although it has been a part of everyday life for years, never before have voters distinguished between the parties. They have always seen both sides as equally corrupt."

"But this time, they are perceiving one side as more corrupt than the other," Roy said.

Gandhi has been haunted for nearly two years by charges that large bribes were paid by the Bofors company of Sweden to get a major artillery contract.

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lippines to Manila, where they will arrive Friday, just before Aquino leaves for Canada and the United States.

Aquino has banned his family from bringing the body home because she says it will be used as a rallying point by supporters out to destabilise the government.

"One cannot help thinking that if Marcos's body had been permitted to be buried on Philippine soil today, all Saints Day, a veneration of this administration would have been buried as well. For good," said a columnist in the Philippine Inquirer.

"There would have been no ghost of recrimination to haunt if the rest of its days," he said.

Filipinos turn graveyards into living cities

By Jeremy Clift
Reuters

MANILA — Tens of thousands of Filipinos, many sleeping in graveyards overnight, crowded into cemeteries Wednesday for their annual carnival with the dead.

For some it was a day of mourning, for others a day of profit and for hundreds of supporters of the late Ferdinand Marcos it was a day of protest.

But for most it was a fiesta. "A festival, above all, is what the day of the dead — Philippine-style — is all about," declared the Manila Times.

Traders selling food and drinks, flowers and candles set up stalls inside the bustling cemeteries as thousands of peo-

ple converged aboard cramped buses, in pedicabs, horse-drawn carriages and in cars for the All Saints' Day Nov. 1 holiday, when the dead are remembered and tombs spruced up.

The glow of hundreds of candles glinted off the graves, some small and neglected, others mausoleums the size of houses.

In some places where land is in short supply, the dead are buried in "apartment blocks," stone graves piled four or five on top of each other.

Pizza and hot-dog sellers grappled for space in Manila's sprawling north cemetery, transformed for a day into a city of the living.

A large truck delivered ice to soft-drink stands, as stalls sold

coconuts and mangoes, and pedicab operators cycled round the crowded graveyard with music blaring from stereo systems.

In one corner, a group of relatives of those who died in the Dona Paz, the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy, prayed quietly and lit candles for the 4,300 victims who drowned in December, 1987.

President Corason Aquino, getting ready for a trip to Canada and the United States Saturday, was scheduled to visit the grave of her assassinated husband, Benigno Aquino, Thursday to avoid the crowds, a spokesman said.

In some large mausoleums, families set up tables and chairs to eat and play cards during the

night. But Manila Mayor Mel Lopez banned the selling and drinking of alcohol inside the cemeteries to prevent violence.

In the Manila suburb of Quezon City, officials reported that the remains of at least 70 people had been removed from three public cemeteries by "body snatchers" who had sold the grave sites to other families.

Marcos supporters, pressing for a home burial for the dictator, who died in exile, accused Aquino of having a "heart of stone" for refusing to allow his remains to be brought back from Hawaii, where they have been interred temporarily.

Several hundred of his supporters are marching from his home town in the northern Phi-

lippines to Manila, where they will arrive Friday, just before Aquino leaves for Canada and the United States.

Aquino has banned his family from bringing the body home because she says it will be used as a rallying point by supporters out to destabilise the government.

"One cannot help thinking that if Marcos's body had been permitted to be buried on Philippine soil today, all Saints Day, a veneration of this administration would have been buried as well. For good," said a columnist in the Philippine Inquirer.

"There would have been no ghost of recrimination to haunt if the rest of its days," he said.

JPL, in USA